



ON THE BRIDGE

The true blue at Number 10

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HOLLYWOOD

Whitney Houston's big screen test

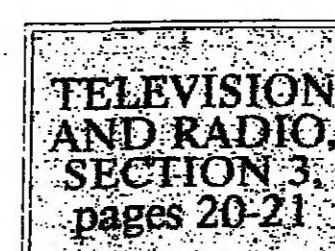
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CRAIG BROWN

All about Esther, Yoko and Mick

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THE TIMES



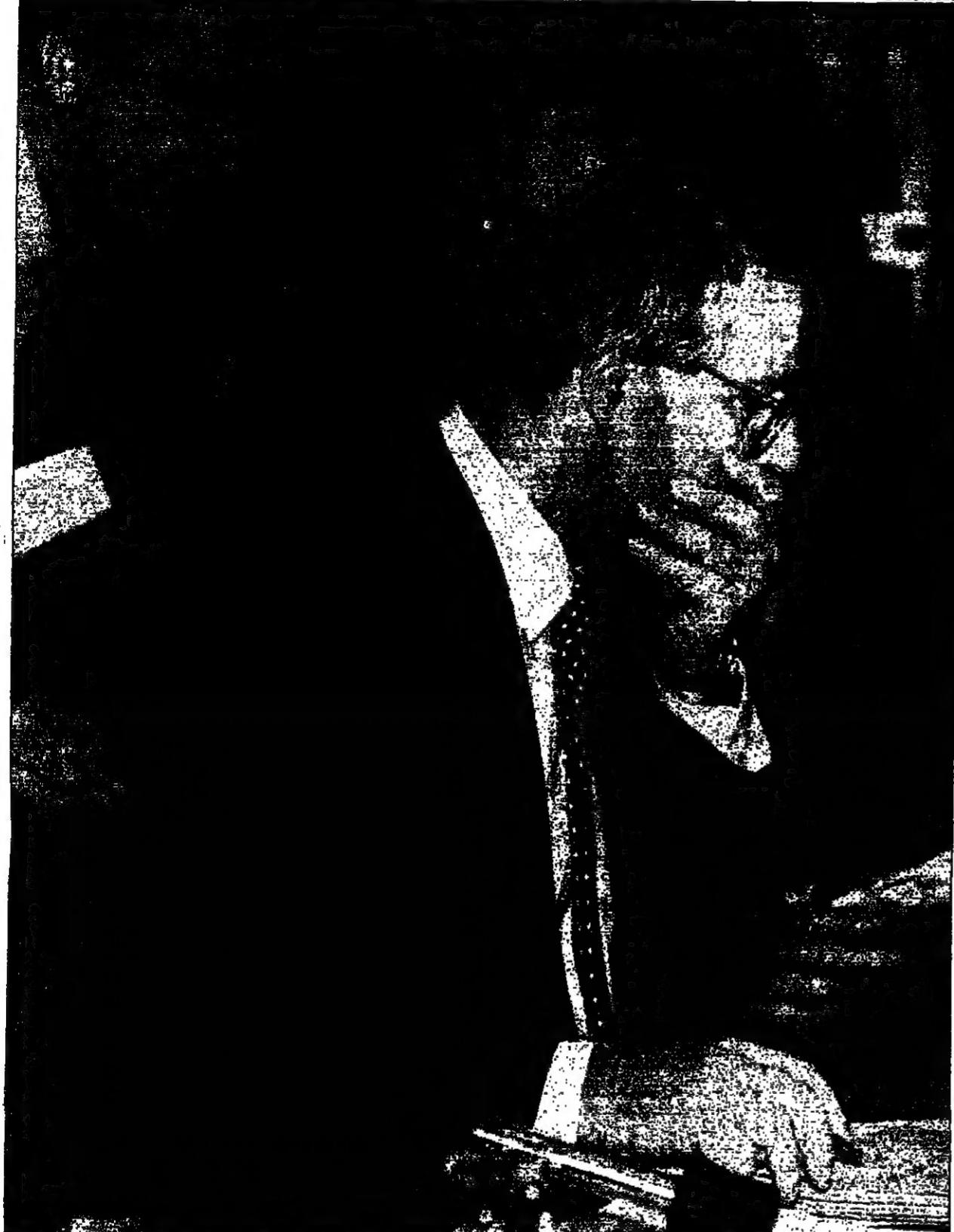
No. 64,466

SATURDAY OCTOBER 17 1992

50p

EC summit overshadowed as government cuts rate and offers more to miners

CHRIS HARRIS



Under pressure: John Major, with Foreign Office minister Tristan Garel-Jones behind, at the summit yesterday

Birmingham talks hailed as boost to Europe's unity

By MICHAEL BINYON AND GEORGE BROCK

THE Birmingham summit had been a success in restoring confidence to the European Community and going a long way to make it more open and more responsive to its citizens, John Major said yesterday.

He said the 12 leaders had all agreed that the Community must move forward together. "There will be no inner core, no fast track and slow track, no one left behind and no inner groups," he said.

All leaders had also agreed that the EC must leave to its member states decisions best taken by national govern-

ments. He said both President Mitterrand and Helmut Kohl, the German chancellor, had strongly supported his wish to see decisions taken at the lowest level appropriate. He said that they were all looking for a Community that was more open, that respected national traditions, that acted only when mandated by its citizens, and that gave the maximum freedom to member states. Such principles would be translated into concrete action by the December summit in Edinburgh.

The prime minister said that, after the squalls of the last few weeks, it had been necessary for Europe's leaders to set a new course. The Birmingham summit, however, was not just about the Maastricht treaty and subsidiarity; it reaffirmed that the Community was open politically and viable economically. He had, he said, a real sense of success.

Jacques Delors, who spoke at length on Commission plans for turning subsidiarity into reality, emphasised that the Birmingham summit had not been a waste of time. "This meeting was essential. It enabled us to raise the level of confidence in the Community," he said. The turbulence of the last few weeks could have led to a lack of trust, but now he was reassured.

Mr Major also spoke of the "body blow" the monetary turbulence had dealt not only to Britain but to all member states. Confidence had to be restored, especially as the completion of the single European market was only three months away. He said the steps taken here yesterday would address the concerns of people not only

in Denmark and Britain but throughout the whole European Community.

He also said the leaders had made progress in strengthening the Commission's hand to negotiate a settlement of the Uruguay Round. He said a Gatt deal was absolutely vital to recovery. Mr Major said the

prime minister was spurred into action as he faced the real prospect of defeat in the Commons next Wednesday when Labour will call for an enquiry into the pit closures. At least a dozen Conservative MPs have openly spoken against the proposals, which the party's leading backbencher described yesterday as "unacceptable".

Throughout the day, there had been renewed confusion over the way the government

Leaders leave reality behind

By MICHAEL BINYON
DIPLOMATIC EDITOR

THERE was something surreal about the carpeted luxury of Birmingham's £180 million International Convention Centre. It was not just the obligatory flags, multi-lingual welcoming signs, the airport-style security, the uncanny resemblance to the cavernous exhibition halls in Maastricht where the infamous treaty was signed; it was the schizophrenia of a summit intended to put the EC back on track which was itself thrown off course by the turmoil in the host country.

John Major had to divide his attention and his press conference between his anxious EC partners and his fractious cabinet. Community spokesmen wandered the corridors formally briefing reporters on the intricacies of the belated world trade talks; most of the journalists were feeding a frenzy of speculation about cabinet resignations, economic crisis and how worried the prime minister should be about his future.

Poul Schlüter, Denmark's prime minister, echoed his foreign affairs minister, Uffe Ekelmann-Jensen, when he told colleagues that Denmark does not want to be obliged to enter a future European single currency.

summit had reaffirmed their determination to bring down inflation, control deficits and pursue open market policies. Helmut Kohl, the German chancellor, said that the EC had made mistakes. "When I was at school," he said, "I found out that you get a lighter punishment if you admit your mistakes."

Poul Schlüter, Denmark's prime minister, echoed his foreign affairs minister, Uffe Ekelmann-Jensen, when he told colleagues that Denmark does not want to be obliged to enter a future European single currency.

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Leading article, page 15

Pits revolt forces Major into action

By PHILIP WEBSTER
CHIEF POLITICAL CORRESPONDENT

JOHN Major last night moved to restore his government's battered authority with action designed to boost the economy, help the 30,000 miners who are to lose their jobs under British Coal's pit plan and stave off the growing Conservative revolt against the closures.

With his domestic political and economic difficulties completely overshadowing the special European Community summit in Birmingham, Mr Major took the unusual step of holding a personal press conference to defend his government's action in closing 31 pits. He described the pain involved in approving the closures and promised a "closely targeted" programme of assistance to help with the retraining of miners, on top of the £1 billion already pledged.

He also followed yesterday morning's one-point cut in interest rates with an announcement that Norman Lamont would be opening a new dialogue with industry. In the next few weeks, the Chancellor would hold face-to-face meetings with industrial leaders to discuss what the government could do to help to boost business.

The prime minister was spurred into action as he faced the real prospect of defeat in the Commons next Wednesday when Labour will call for an enquiry into the pit closures. At least a dozen Conservative MPs have openly spoken against the proposals, which the party's leading backbencher described yesterday as "unacceptable".

Throughout the day, there

had been renewed confusion over the way the government

reached its decision without any reference to the full cabinet — Gillian Shephard, the employment secretary, David Hunt, the Welsh secretary, and Douglas Hurd, the foreign secretary, were among those who are understood not to have been involved in the decision taking. Last night, Mr Major revealed that at the last moment, just before the announcement, the ministers most closely concerned had carried out a final review to see whether the decision was right in strategic terms, whether the government could be certain that it would not need that coal capacity in the future and to make sure that the Coal Board was not closing marginal pits that could have survived.

Downing Street disclosed yesterday that Michael Heseltine, the president of the Board of Trade, had told most of the cabinet before the closures were announced.

Mr Major spoke out last night in the face of the most severe rumblings of revolt that he has encountered since he became the Conservative leader in 1990. Efforts to quell the rebellion became essential after Sir Marcus Fox, chairman of the 1922 Committee and effectively the voice of the Tory backbenchers, said that a review of the government's decision on the pit closures was "imperative". The scale of the proposals were unacceptable, he said. "I am sure there

will be a number of answers to the things that concern us —

there had better be," Winston Churchill, another leading critic, said last night: "If you are going up a blind alley the most sensible thing to do is to make a U-turn."

Mr Heseltine has been asked to address the executive of the 1922 committee next week. It was also disclosed last night that he plans to address Tory MPs before Wednesday.

But Labour's Gordon Brown and the Liberal Democrat leader, Paddy Ashdown, described the move as a panic measure. Mr Brown spoke of a suspicion that the move had more to do with the problems of the Conservative party than the real needs of the country.

Labour and the Liberal Democrats have launched national petitions calling for a reprieve for the pits, and John Smith, the Labour leader, last night challenged Mr Major to visit the coalfields "to see for himself the devastation caused by his policies". He said: "The government is alone in failing to appreciate the calamity it has caused. They must face up to the fact that they have made a tragic error which is not supported by the British people and they must change policy now."

Peter Riddell, page 2
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Leading article and letters,

day's debate, a further indication of government concern about the outcome."

The government had suffered a further setback when the miners won a partial victory in their attempt to stop the closures. The High Court announced it will rule next Tuesday on the legality of the closures, which means that the

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SUNDAY TIMES

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INTEREST RATE CUTS

Lender	Cut	New rate
Abbey National (loans under £50,000) (over £50,000) (above £100,000)	0.35	9.25%
National & Provincial	0.74	9.25%
Northern Rock	0.50	9.25%
North of England	0.74	9.25%
Leeds to cut its mortgage rate next week		
Nationwide expects an announcement next week with immediate effect for new borrowers		
Alliance & Leicester to review rates during the next few days		
C&G to add any new reductions to recent cuts		

UC300

UC15

UC16 (Colour Viewfinder)

UC10

E200

E500

E100

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and very hard driving something

John Foster's team lead moving" Mr Foster said.

NEWS IN BRIEF

London zoo chooses new cut-price look

London zoo will announce next week that it has rejected an ambitious £6 million redevelopment plan and will instead opt for a more conservative £18 million in-house scheme. The zoo's governing council made the decision after a committee, which had spent a month examining the two rival bids, recommended the plan drawn up by Jo Gipps, the zoo's acting chief executive.

Under the ten-year redevelopment the Mappin Terraces will be rebuilt. Bears will be returned to the main terraces and wild goats will once again roam on the top level. The aquarium, which is under the terraces, will also be tidied up. One council member, who wanted to remain anonymous, said last night that he was relieved the council had rejected the plan drawn up by David Laing of the construction family, which would have built a walk-through aquarium and a cinema complex.

Male rape victim 'lied'

Police investigating the gang rape of a man on Hampstead Heath in London said yesterday that the victim had lied about being abducted from an Underground train at gunpoint. The 19-year-old student hairdresser originally said that his three attackers, one armed with a handgun and one with a knife, had dragged him from the rush-hour train and through busy streets to the health. Det Insp Jim Davison said yesterday that the man had been the victim of a serious sexual assault, but had gone to the health of his own accord between 9pm and 10pm. "We cannot comment on his reasons for not telling us the truth originally," he said. The search for the attackers is continuing.

Rachel murder clue

Detectives hunting the killer of Rachel Nickell, left, murdered on Wimbledon Common on July 15, are pursuing an important new lead. It is hoped vital new information given by viewers of BBC's *Crimewatch* may lead police to her murderer. A total of 812 calls were made to police after the programme last month. Twelve more people who were on the Common have come forward.

Crown jewels expand

The Tower of London is to expand its Jewel House at a cost of £10 million to cut queues to see the crown jewels. Work starts on Monday on the new display area, which will be three times larger and able to take 2,500 visitors an hour – four times the present capacity. Moving pavements will carry visitors past the coronation crown and the imperial state crown at busy times and the display will be on the ground floor of the Duke of Wellington's barracks, rather than on two levels as now, to give better disabled access.

Traffic jam waste

Traffic jams cost Britain £15 billion a year in wasted fuel, overtime payments, and lost production, a report from the Royal Automobile Club and the Freight Transport Association says. *Britain's Motorways: Are Customers Getting the Best Return?* says that lorries and vans using the M25 in London each waste 90 hours a year, costing about £1,500 per driver. The two groups want the government to appoint motorway managers responsible for co-ordinating roadworks and improving traffic information.

Iraq rejects appeal

A Baghdad court has rejected appeals by Paul Ride and Michael Wainwright, the two Britons jailed in Iraq after being accused of illegally entering the country. The appeals were made on Saturday but details emerged only yesterday from the Russian diplomats who are representing them on Britain's behalf. New appeals are to be lodged with the Supreme Legal Commission, Iraq's highest legal body, and a lawyer is to be instructed to plead on their behalf.

Major's counter-attack looks more like retreat

BY PETER RIDDELL
POLITICAL EDITOR

THE Major government yesterday spluttered into a counter-attack, though it looked more like a retreat after the worst week of its near two-year life.

On every side there has been an impression this week of shambles in decision-making and presentation in Downing Street, yesterday overshadowing the Birmingham summit. At present, John Major does not look a prime minister with a firm grip on events.

The government has no choice but to change its pit-

closure policy before next Wednesday's Commons debate after the eruption of protest in the country. This is even leaving aside any complications resulting from the miners' action in the courts.

When the chairman of the Tory backbench 1922 Committee says that the approach on pit closures is "unacceptable", then something has to change, even when the chairman is as maverick and inconsistent a figure as Sir Marcus Fox. The government is going to have to alter the phasing of the closures and redundancies or provide more help for the affected miners and commu-

nities if it is to be sure of a majority in next Wednesday's debate.

Every action the government has taken in recent days has underlined its vulnerability. Tory MPs and industrialists may have been calling for a reduction in interest rates to end the recession but yesterday's one-point cut looked a panic response to the dispute over pit closures rather than a considered development of a coherent policy.

The interest rate decision contradicts the Bank of En-

gland's clear signal to the money markets earlier this week of no change in interest rates, as well as recent comments by the Treasury. It is unclear what had suddenly changed in the prospects for inflation yesterday morning to justify a cut.

No wonder the financial markets and MPs were unimpressed. No one is going to take the government's pledges on fighting inflation on trust. Even though the pro-European members of the cabinet favour re-entry into the exchange-rate mechanism in time, as does Mr Major, uncertainties about economic

policy do not help. The confusion over the way the government reached its decision on pit closures may be largely a media-driven diversion from the central issue, but the succession of different stories about what happened has vividly illustrated Downing Street's lack of touch.

All this happened on a day that was supposed to mark the relaunch of Mr Major's European policy. The prime minister did get his piece of paper on subsidiarity in the Community from yesterday's summit – the Birmingham Declaration. That should help the Tory whips to rally back-

Shephard furious at being kept in the dark

BY JILL SHERMAN
AND PHILIP WEBSTER

SOME ministers knew nothing of the timetable for 31 pit closures until three days before the first six were due to close; it emerged yesterday as Downing Street tried to defend the lack of cabinet consultation.

Officials said yesterday that Michael Heseltine had told most of the Cabinet that 31 pits were to close, some of them by Friday, at a cabinet sub-committee meeting before Tuesday's announcement by British Coal.

However, many of the ministers affected by the closures such as Gillian Shephard, the employment secretary, and David Hunt, the Welsh secretary, were clearly angry that they did not know the full details of the programme. Douglas Hurd, foreign secretary, also appeared to be ignorant of the details before Tuesday.

Sources close to the employment secretary claimed last night that she had been unfairly implicated in a decision she knew nothing about while Mr Hunt admitted he did not know that the last pit in North Wales Point of Ayr was doomed to close.

Mr Hurd, asked on BBC radio yesterday whether he knew about the announcement, said: "I knew there was a problem but I didn't know what the solution was going to be. The issue would have come before the full cabinet for ratification yesterday had it not been for leaked reports. These things happen."

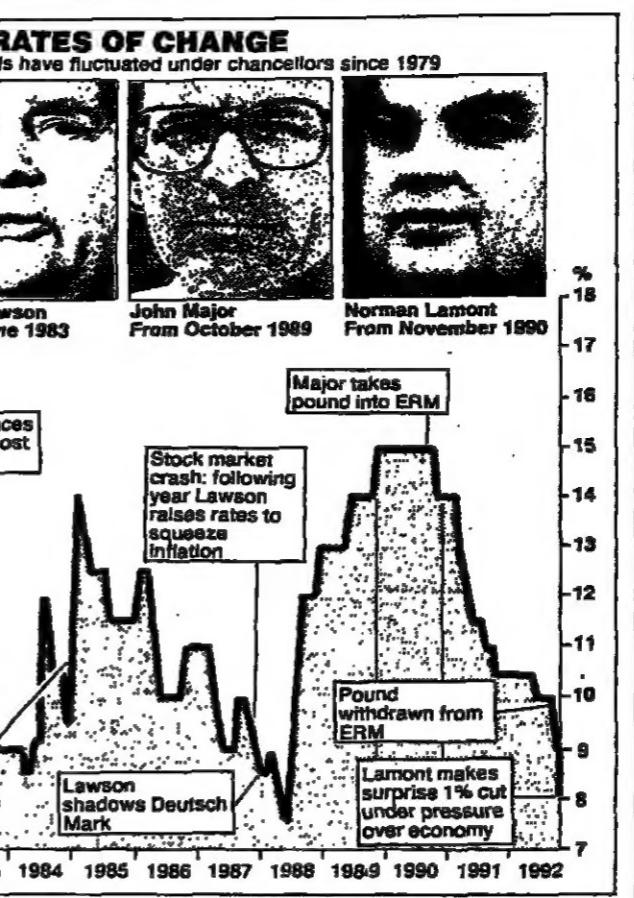
Mr Hunt said on television: "I knew of the scale of the challenge to the industry and the decision over Taff Merthyr and Bettws collieries (in south Wales). I was surprised by the timing and I was not aware of the developing situation at Point of Ayr."

Downing Street said Mr Heseltine had been forced to bring the announcement forward from October 19 to end growing uncertainty in the mining industry after a spate of media leaks.

Officials emphasised that Mr Heseltine had kept the Cabinet regularly informed about the progress of the electricity generators' negotiations with British Coal and the implications of those negotiations. Cabinet ministers had known for some time that the decision was to be made, and there had been detailed discussions of a redundancy package.

A government source said: "If the leases hadn't happened, it would have gone to Cabinet, and been announced to Parliament in the normal way."

However the official line was challenged when MPs pointed out that if the timetable, set out by British Coal on Tuesday had gone ahead, the first pits would have closed 48 hours before Mr Heseltine told the Commons.

**WHAT A 2% MORTGAGE CUT MEANS:**

LOAN SIZE £	OLD PAYMENT £	REPAYMENT £	NEW PAYMENT £	DIFFERENCE £
10,000	78.23	71.11	71.11	7.13
20,000	156.46	142.21	142.21	14.25
30,000	234.70	213.32	213.32	21.38
40,000	320.28	288.44	288.44	31.84
50,000	417.07	375.00	375.00	42.07
60,000	495.55	454.55	454.55	41.53
70,000	588.80	539.71	539.71	49.09
80,000	682.03	624.50	624.50	57.13
90,000	775.25	710.09	710.09	65.17
100,000	864.92	782.78	782.78	72.14

Source: Abbey National

Public sector pay is likely to be frozen

BY OUR POLITICAL CORRESPONDENT

YESTERDAY'S decision to reduce interest rates has made the government even more determined to meet the £24.5 billion public spending ceiling next year, with the £80 billion public sector pay bill now emerging as the main target for savings. Hundreds of thousands of public sector employees face a pay freeze next year and pay review bodies covering the pay of 1.3 million workers may be suspended.

After three days of meetings against a background of growing economic gloom, the special Cabinet committee on public spending is now desperate to find justifiable cutbacks that will not further dent the government's credibility.

Ministers argue that a freeze or minimal pay rise for Britain's five million public sector employees is one of the most politically acceptable ways of meeting the ceiling.

Nearly £3 billion could be saved by a pay freeze, while

every 1 per cent off the 3.5 per cent pay assumption used in next year's spending baseline would save the Exchequer about £800 million. Norman Lamont is now said to be keen to set an unofficial pay bill ceiling of 0.2 per cent, allowing employers flexibility to introduce performance-related pay.

While capital projects, health spending and social security benefits are also expected to be hit, it is now argued that swinging cuts in these areas would not be so easy to defend.

With unemployment estimates rising almost daily, the government expects a social security bill at least £4 billion higher than the £76 billion allowed for in spending plans.

Ministers point out that pay freezes are now common in the private sector and there is no reason why public sector employees should be protected from the recession.

Summit leaves reality behind

Continued from page 1

even printed its entire front page in French in case continental visitors were unaware of the little local difficulties.

In the end the threatened invasion of Centenary Square never materialised. A few made it to the designated demo pavement where they chanted: "No job losses," and held up banners saying: "This government is the pits. Shut it down." They had to join an assortment of the malcontented parading grievances: "Is Bosnia Europe's abortion?", "Maastricht Not!" and "Maastricht is a Major disaster". Even anti-apartheid demonstrators were there, along with protesters against the Indian government.

The leaders saw little of it, as they had only to cross a covered bridge from their Hyatt suites to the convention centre. Helmut Kohl, the German chancellor, did go on a brief walkabout on Thursday evening, confusing his security guards and most of the great Birmingham public whom he greeted warmly in German.

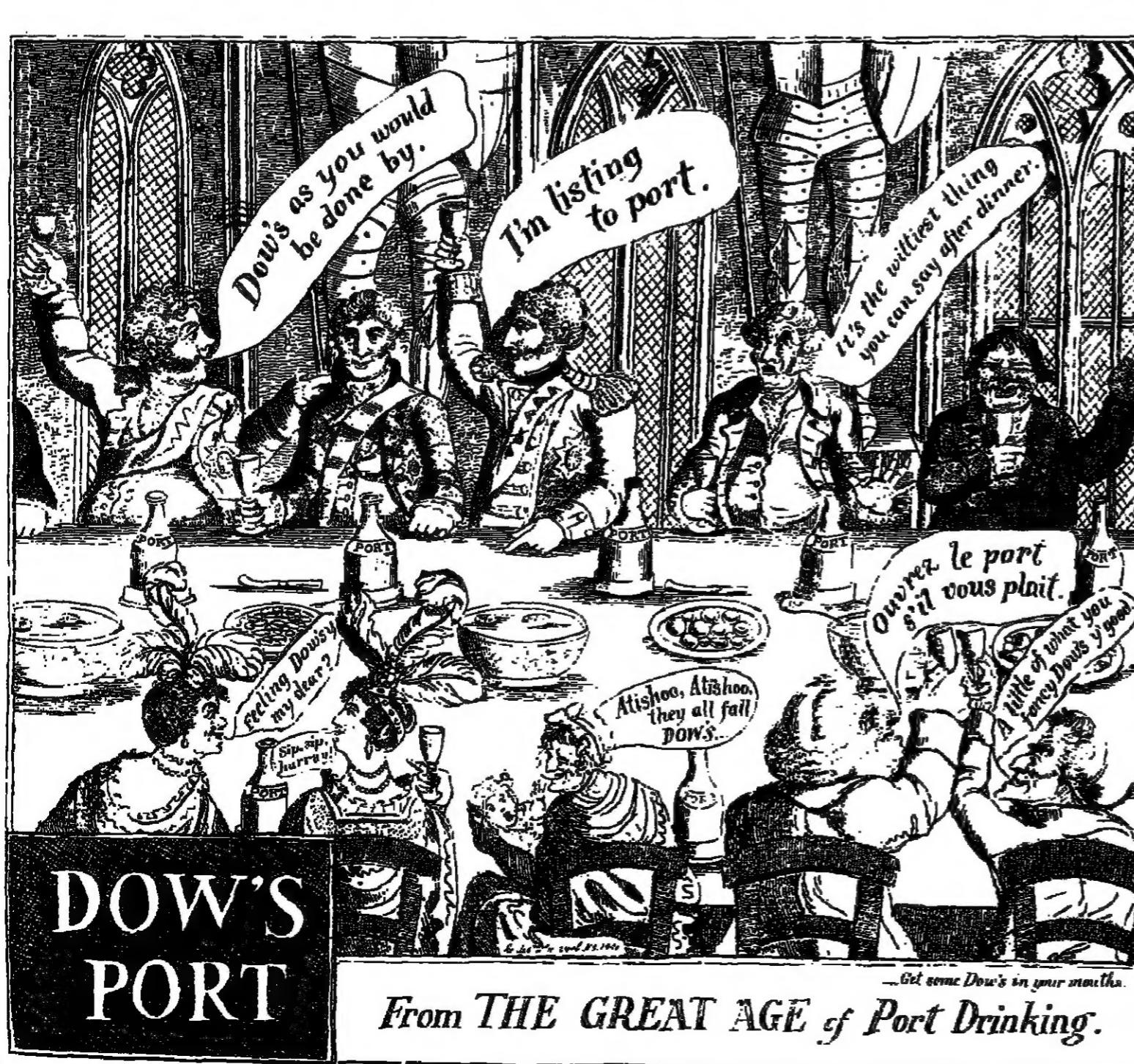
Other leaders were captured on camera as they crossed the bridge, sighing perhaps. Despite official adoption of the ideology of glasnost, none showed much enthusiasm for camera-captured government, and conducted their sessions, as usual, in hush-hush.

Poul Schlüter, the Danish prime minister, whose country was ultimately responsible for all the tooting and frothing here, produced another surprise: a little red apple, which he tossed across to Mr Major to show him what subsidiarity is all about. The apple, a tasty 59 millimetres too small for the

Euro-apple classification, and Brussels has decreed that it be crushed for juice but not sold to eat. Mr Major, already driven from his European Eden by the Danish referendum, did not take a bite.

The big, perhaps sole winner of the day, was the city of Birmingham. Euro-enthusiasm was not jaded here: banners hung across every street, roadworks hoardings had been painted blue with gold stars and correctly coloured pansies sprouted freshly in municipal beds.

The day began with prayers for the summit's success from Europhile clergy; it ended with Mr Major producing a mouse on subsidiarity and struggling for his political life through a press conference on the pits and the economy. Few European summits have seemed so unreal.



Two UK backpackers beaten to death on tour of Himalayas

By TIM JONES

TWO more young British backpackers have been murdered. The Foreign Office confirmed yesterday that Joanna Stickland, 28, and Paul Miles, 27, were killed eight days ago while walking in the foothills of the Himalayas. One report said that they had been beaten to death with shovels.

Two of their attackers, believed to have been Nepalese labourers, were seized by other workers and are being held by Indian police, who are searching for a third member of the gang.

Miss Stickland, from Bath, and Mr Miles, from Teignmouth, Devon, met as

students at Nottingham Polytechnic. They moved to Bath, where they worked in a pasta shop and made plans to travel.

The couple, who had been abroad since August, were walking in the Joshimath area of Uttar Pradesh when they were attacked. Their bodies have been cremated and their ashes will be flown back to Britain.

Last night Mrs Jane Stickland said: "This was to be Jo's and Paul's final travelling experience before settling down to life. They were extremely close and loved each other very much. They were going to return home soon to set up a life together, using the

Celia Honer, the couple's former employer, said: "They worked very hard and they saved all their money for their travelling. It was all they ever talked about. Going to India together was their dream. It is horrific that it should end like this."

It is understood the couple may have been travelling in the Himalayan foothills on a Royal Enfield motor cycle which they bought in India.

The Foreign Office and the Indian police are trying to trace an expatriate British couple, known only as Sean and Mel, who live in Goa in Southern India. It is believed Joanna and Paul were due to spend Christmas with them and that they may have been looking after some of their belongings.

Last month, Australian police discovered the bodies of two other British backpackers, Joanne Walters, 22, and Caroline Clarke, 21, in shallow graves 80 miles southwest of Sydney. They are thought to have been hitch-hiking to Melbourne.

Four Britons were murdered in Angola in January. Susan Kirkby, from Doncaster, was shot and wounded in Sydney in May, and Jonathan Farmer was hacked to death as he jogged on Lamai island, Kenya.

The gold would be hidden in the cars and driven to the Channel ports to be ferried to Britain. Neil was the mastermind who did some of the smuggling himself, Mr Rogers said.

The case was brought after a team of five investigators from a special VAT fraud team began an operation code-named Babysitter in 1990. In October 1990 Neil used two identical cars for a smuggling run. One was taken to France with Taylor's help, loaded with gold and left at Calais. Neil then took the second over to Calais, picked up the one loaded with gold and brought it into Britain.



Paul Miles and Joanna Stickland: their last trip

Gold smuggled in hollow car bumpers

By STEWART TENDLER, CRIME CORRESPONDENT

THE mastermind behind a smuggling racket which brought gold worth £35 million into Britain and made millions out of VAT fraud was convicted at Southwark Crown Court yesterday after a customs investigation.

Investigators believe the smuggling trips cost £5 million in lost VAT and were organised by Robert Neil, who began operations while on bail pending an appeal for a previous conviction for evading VAT. Consignments of bullion openly bought from a Luxembourg bank were hidden in cars and then brought in to Britain by couriers.

Neil, 54, of west London, was convicted yesterday after a nine-month case, with Norma Boxall, 46, unemployed of Croydon, south London, who was said to be a courier, and Michael Patrick Taylor, 26, unemployed of Islington, north London, a murderer. Taylor is Neil's stepson.

The three were convicted after four days of deliberation by the jury of conspiracy to cheat the public revenue. Last night the jury was sent to a

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Asian wife 'emotionally blackmailed to marry'

By RAY CLANCY

AN ASIAN woman who says that she was emotionally blackmailed into an arranged marriage yesterday sought an annulment in a court case that could open the floodgates for similar claims.

Lawyers for Shamshad Mahmood, 26, argued that her marriage to Zahid Mahmood, who is now living in Pakistan after being deported and is opposing the annulment, told the Court of Session in Edinburgh that she was threatened by her parents.

Ronald Clancy, counsel for Mrs Mahmood, said that her parents threatened to disown her, throw her out of the family home and turn the Pakistani community against her if she did not consent to the marriage. He argued that she felt sufficiently frightened to agree to their demands and was married in 1988.

Eileen Davie, counsel for Mr Mahmood, argued that any threat made by the parents were not strong or violent enough to warrant an annulment under Scottish or English law. The test for threats to be justified under Scots law was that there had to be threats of such violence that she was forced into agreeing to the marriage under duress and fear for her life, Mrs Davie said. Under English law the parameters were similar, namely that the victim felt fear for life, limb and liberty.

She argued that Mrs Mahmood had had plenty of time to think about the marriage and she made a decision fully aware of the consequences.

Lord Sutherland reserved judgment in the case.

Peeping Tom pays the price for suing council

A JOBLESS man who sued a county council, claiming £10,000 for injuries he said he received after tripping on a broken kerbstone, was revealed in court yesterday as a peeping Tom who fell from a ladder while staring through a window at a woman.

Judge Jack told Charles Kinsella at Dorchester Crown Court: "Public money has been wasted by a claim which was wholly dishonest from the start." He dismissed the claim but he decided against asking the Director of Public

Prosecutions to consider bringing a case of perjury against Mr Kinsella, 42, of Bradpole, Bridport.

Mr Kinsella had sued Dorset County Council, as the highways authority, saying he had broken his ankle tripping over the kerbstone in June 1990. But the judge believed Mr Kinsella's next-door neighbour, Alison Yates, who told the court: "He was up to his old peeping Tom tricks again."

The judge said he found "unconvincing" Mr Kinsella's account that he had

fallen over the kerbstone after drinking seven pints at a local pub. The judge found that the Yates family told the truth when they said they saw Mr Kinsella crawling from their garden after falling off a ladder he had placed by their bedroom window.

Peter Yates thought justice had been done by the injury Mr Kinsella sustained after peering at his wife through their bedroom window, the court was told. But his wife Alison was angered at hearing Mr Kinsella was suing the county.

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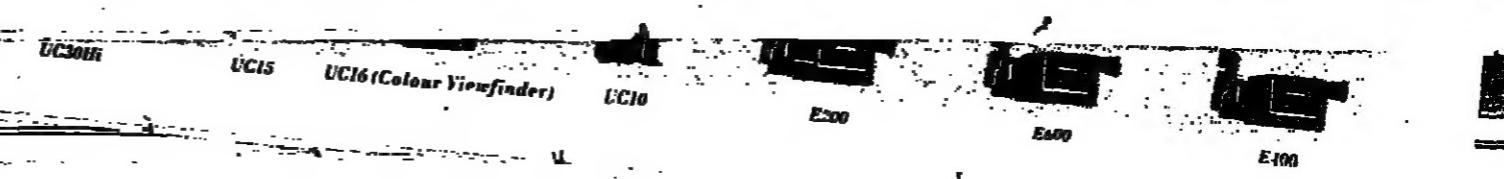
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BBC faces £200,000 legal bill

Writer wins £68,000 for unused soap plots

AN AUTHOR who planned to blow up members of the *EastEnders* cast in a fictional IRA blast won £68,195 damages yesterday after a High Court judge ruled that the BBC must pay him for the unused story lines.

David Yallop, 55, an investigative journalist, called for John Birt, BBC director-general, to launch an enquiry into why the case was fought. The BBC now faces paying costs of more than £200,000 following the eight-day hearing.

Mr Yallop, speaking outside court, said: "I'm delighted. This case never needed to be brought. Now the BBC will have to pay between £200,000 and £300,000 of our money, licence-payers' money, when we could have arrived at an acceptable settlement three years ago."

"There is no accountability for the people running the BBC. As I proceeded in this case I had to consider the financial implications of it all to myself and my family."

Mr Yallop was hired by the BBC in June 1989 to boost the

ratings of the flagging soap and eliminate ten members of the cast. He responded by bringing carnage and violent death to Albert Square, the home of the series.

In one plot, at least three cast members, including the market stallholder Pete Beale, were to die when an IRA explosives cache ignited under the square's community centre. In another, Mrs Karim, a shopkeeper's wife, was to be killed by raiders in an attack on a sub-post office.

Mr Yallop, the producer, commissioned Mr Yallop to write 104 story lines at £750 a time. But BBC's head of drama series, Peter Cregeen, told the court that when he heard of the outlines, they gave him "grave concern".

The court was told that Mr Cregeen had received a memo from Paul Fox, BBC director of television, warning of a possible investigation into *EastEnders* by the Broadcasting Standards Council. Mr Fox had asked that the show did not contain stories he would find difficult to defend.

Mike Gibbon, the producer, claimed that Mr Yallop had indicated to Mr Ferguson that the two would be unable to work with each other. However, Mr Justice Sheldon, said: "By no stretch of the imagination could anything said by Mr Yallop be taken or inferred as a repudiation of the contract."

Mr Yallop had claimed £70,500 for damages for breach of contract. The judge deducted £2,304.88 for secretarial costs he had saved. Mr Yallop claimed he had worked 16 hours a day for 70 days to produce 104 pages of story ideas but was paid just £7,500.

The court was told how Mr Yallop would place a red star by the photographs of actors he planned to kill off.



David Yallop outside the High Court: "I'm delighted. This case never needed to be brought."

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Court win goes to a scapegoat specialist

THE scriptwriter whom the BBC unsuccessfully accused of dishonestly claiming fees for *EastEnders* story outlines involving violent crime and death has had a long legitimate association with crime (Robin Young writes).

David Yallop left school at 15, started work as a newspaper office boy, and then became a television studio floor manager. He graduated to scriptwriting by working for David Frost and the two Ronnies, Corbett and Barker, before a friend suggested a factual historic series based on the theme of scapegoats.

The first scapegoat Mr Yallop chose to write about was Derek Bentley, hanged for his involvement in the murder of a policeman in 1952 and refused a posthumous pardon this month. Mr Yallop's book *To Encourage the Others*, published in 1970, was the first of many to urge Bentley's innocence, and succeeded in having the case reopened.

Next he wrote a book called *The Day the Laughter Stopped*, based on the trial and disgrace of the silent movie comedian Roscoe "Fatty" Arbuckle. While promoting the book in New Zealand Mr Yallop was asked

about the case of Arthur Thomas, a farmer sentenced to life for double murder who had already lost two appeals. The result was a screenplay for David Hemmings based on the Thomas case, called *Beyond Reasonable Doubt*, the reopening of the case, and eventually a royal pardon for Thomas with \$1 million compensation.

Mr Yallop next pursued his own investigations into the identity of the Yorkshire Ripper. He claims that seven months before Peter Sutcliffe was arrested he told police that their man was 35, with a black beard, a gap in his teeth, a lorry driver, living in Bradford, married, with no children, who had already been interviewed by police and eliminated from their enquiries. When Sutcliffe was arrested he answered the description in every respect.

Mr Yallop followed this with his most contentious and profitable work to date, the book *In God's Name*, in which he alleges that Pope John Paul I was murdered because he was about to expose the Vatican's financial scandals. The book topped bestseller lists in America, and was published in 35 countries.

Franks dies in Oxford, aged 87

By ROBIN YOUNG

LORD FRANKS, philosopher, diplomat, banker, royal adviser and the man who investigated the origins of the Falklands conflict, has died at his home in Oxford, aged 87.

Public figures had difficulty yesterday matching the tributes already paid to him to Sir Lord Jenkins of Hillhead, for example, was already on the record describing Lord Franks as a man of "outstanding ability and integrity" and could hardly go further.

Lord Franks was, simply, the greatest of that select band of public servants known collectively as "the great and good". Survivors in that genre spoke yesterday of a man who could have had any job he wished.

Men of distinction were repeating yesterday the comment of an Oxford don who, having survived a grilling by Lord Franks as chairman of an inquiry into the university's affairs in 1964, commented: "I now know what the day of judgment will be like, only I expect God to be more human."

Lord Franks always thought of himself as an academic, yet in the world of affairs he became successively "temporary permanent secretary" (as he described the post) of the Ministry of Supply, provost of his Oxford college, and then our ambassador to Washington.

In 1952-3 he turned down more important jobs than most public figures get near to in a lifetime. Among them was the editorship of *The Times*. He declined, he said, because "I felt there was an element in it of an act of creation, every day. I did not believe my temperament was like that."

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Obituary, page 17

Judge gives backing to M-way nap

A judge ruled yesterday that it was legal for a driver to stop on a motorway hard shoulder for a sleep. At Guildford Crown Court, Surrey, Judge Slot allowed an appeal against a police fixed penalty conviction by Dr Curtis Timms, 37, and awarded his costs.

Dr Timms, an antiques dealer with a PhD in psychology, was given a £16 fixed penalty ticket after police found him asleep at the wheel on the M25 in April. He did not pay the fine but appealed before magistrates at Woking, Surrey, who increased the fine to £50.

Dr Timms, of High Wycombe, Buckinghamshire, told Judge Slot that he had not felt tired when he passed the previous junction. "Suddenly, I became unable to continue my journey, so rather than risk an accident, I stopped."

Bomber Harris cleared

Three students were cleared of plotting to spray red paint over crowds and a statue to Sir Arthur "Bomber" Harris as it was unveiled by the Queen Mother. Nicholas Underwood, 22, of Heston, east London, Stuart Matheson, 21, of Bromley, Kent, east London, and Steven Wilson, 21, of Marylebone, of central London, were carrying plastic washing-up liquid bottles filled with paint.

They denied having articles with intent to damage property and told Southwark Crown Court that they intended to spray the paint over them selves and a banner.

Cancer error families sue

Families of 50 cancer patients who were given up to 30 per cent less than their required radiation dosage are to sue West Midlands regional Health authority.

Nearly 1,000 patients received the wrong dosage at North Staffordshire Hospital Centre. An enquiry blamed human error and a breakdown in communications. The authority denies negligence.

Pioneer dies

Winifred Collings, 95, said to be the world's first radio singer, died at Chelmsford, Essex. As an amateur soprano she took part in a 1920 test broadcast by Guglielmo Marconi.

Crash award

Tina Loughney, 21, of Dulwich, southeast London, was awarded £370,000 agreed damages in the High Court for brain damage suffered at the age of 12 when a car knocked her down.

Singer better

The singer Frankie Vaughan, 64, returned home to High Wycombe, Buckinghamshire, from an Oxford hospital after heart surgery. He ruptured a blood vessel while golfing during his Blackpool summer season.

Pecking order

Woodpeckers have caused damage that will cost £23,000 to repair after pecking cedar tiles on a church steeple at South Stoke, West Sussex.

Airport enquiry

Manchester airport has begun an enquiry into how a two-year-old girl wandered behind a check-in desk and climbed on to a luggage conveyor belt.

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THE TIMES SATURDAY OCTOBER 17 1992

Oxford starts enquiry into 'high level' of suicides

By MATTHEW D'ANCONA, EDUCATION CORRESPONDENT

OXFORD University has launched an enquiry into the level of suicide among its students as investigations continue into the death of an 18-year-old undergraduate found hanged in her room on Thursday.

Tracey Cole, awarded a medal on Monday for achieving the best marks in the country in this year's sociology A level, was discovered by a fellow student hanging by a dressing gown cord from the ceiling of her room in Lady Margaret Hall only a week after she arrived in Oxford to read English.

Police said that no suicide note had been found but that she appeared to have been "overwhelmed by the volume of work she was going to face". Miss Cole's parents travelled to Oxford from their home in Exeter yesterday to collect their daughter's belongings. Dr Duncan Stewart, principal, has informed college members of the death by letter and said that they were "terribly distressed" by it.

"In the case of a student who has been with us for only a week there is little I can offer in the way of profound assessment. She had every reason to expect to do well here because she had an outstanding pre-university record academically," he said.

Dr Stewart added that Miss Cole, due to be matriculated into the university this morning, had shown no signs of stress at meetings with tutors and had already started to make friends.

As the Lady Margaret Hall flag flew at half-mast, students at Miss Cole's college speculated about her motives.

Ariane Von Orlow, 26, said adjusting to a new environment could be difficult. "I've had some problems myself trying to get on with work but I can't understand how this

Spassky plays his finest game yet

By RAYMOND KEENE
CHESS CORRESPONDENT

AFTER Bobby Fischer's lacklustre performance in game 19 of the Belgrade match, Boris Spassky has struck back, scoring an outstanding win in game 20. After 43 moves, and with his position in ruins, Fischer resigned. The score is now seven wins to Fischer, four to Spassky, with nine games drawn. The victor is the first player to score 10 wins.

Spassky, playing white, tried a first move in game 20 that he has hitherto not used in this contest. For many moves the respective armies eyed each other from a great distance. Then on the twenty-second Spassky implemented a manoeuvre that led to the winning of a pawn by forced stages.

Fischer reacted powerfully in the centre but on the twenty-eighth move the American grandmaster made a clumsy choice that brought a rook into danger. Five moves later Spassky pounced, attacking both of Fischer's rooks with his knight. Fischer could not throw off the pressure and was eventually tied in knots in the final position; he was way behind on material and more was bound to go. This was Spassky's best game of the match.

White Black
1 e4 c5
2 Nf3 d5
3 Bb5 Nc6
4 e5 Nf6
5 Nc3 e5
6 d4 Nc6
7 c3 Nf6
8 Nf3 Nc6
9 Bc4 Nf6
10 Nc3 Nc6
11 Bb5 Nf6
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13 Bc4 Nf6
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6 PIT CLOSURES

Commons move for all-party review

Labour smooths way for Tory rebellion

By SHEILA GUNN AND ARTHUR LEATHLEY

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LABOUR yesterday increased its chances of imposing a defeat on the government by questioning Michael Heseltine, the trade board president, before Wednesday's debate.

In addition, Mr Heseltine will make a Commons statement on Monday on the closures and will appear before the industry committee on Wednesday morning.

The government's business managers can afford to be relaxed about protests from a small nucleus of well-known rebels, but are understood to be alarmed at the scale of criticism from normally loyal Tory MPs who could wipe out the government's 21 majority in the Commons.

Those who have spoken publicly against the announcement include Michael Clark, Winston Churchill, Elizabeth Peacock, Sir John Hannan, Sir Tony Duran, James Pawsey, David Nicholson, William Cash, Sir Teddy Taylor, Ann and Nicholas Winterton, John Carlisle, Robert Adley and John Butcher.

A vote for Labour's motion for an enquiry by the industry committee would effectively wreck the government's pit closure programme and ensure the issue remained in the spotlight for months as witnesses, including ministers, faced televised questioning.

Both Tory and Labour sources were at pains to emphasise yesterday that a government defeat, while humiliating, would not bring the government down or provoke a general election.

Sir Marcus Fox, chairman of the 1922 Committee and, in effect, the voice of the Tory back benches, yesterday condemned the 30,000 job losses and the closure of more than half of Britain's mines as unacceptable. He said that a review was imperative but there was no question of his voting against the government.

Sir Marcus, MP for Shipley, admitted that some Tory MPs were incensed about the impact of the closures and said

they would effectively

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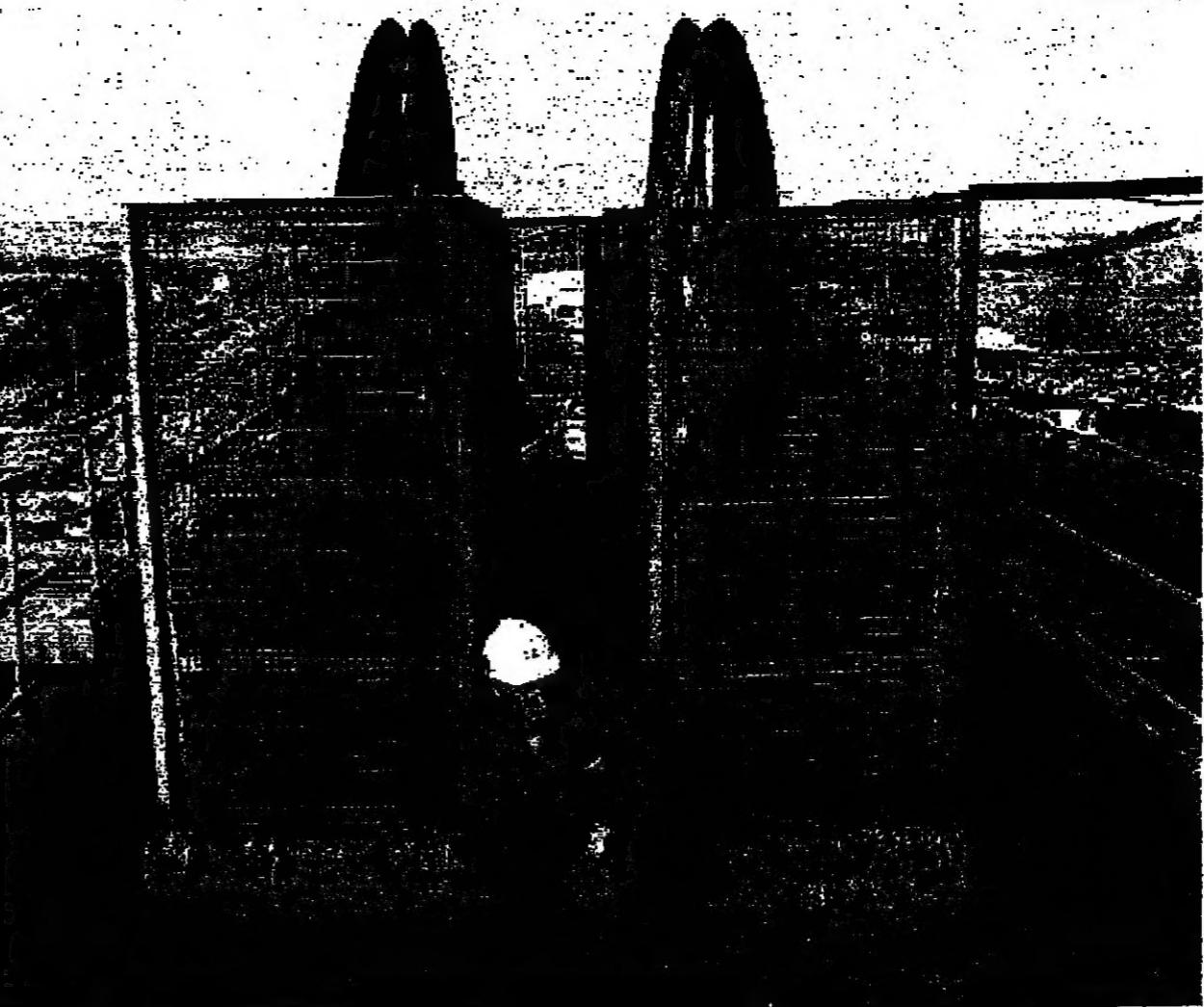
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Coal men peer into black hole of their future

MARC ASPLAND



The pits: gloom at Silverhill colliery after mining was stopped there yesterday. "Stunned, appalled, disgusted. You name it, that's what I felt when I heard about the closure," said miner Lee Collins

■ A week's reprieve has done little for the peace of mind of Silverhill miners

By RONALD FAUX

LEE Collins arrived for work at Silverhill colliery near Mansfield yesterday unsure whether it would be his last day as a miner.

The shock of the sudden closure announcement had not worn off. "Stunned, appalled, disgusted. You name it, that's what I felt when I heard," the powerfully built, quietly spoken miner said. Yesterday there was no time to put on his pit gear as preparation for the 1,200ft descent into Silverhill. "There was so much uncertainty about we were told to go home. There was no working and Roy Lyne had begun a shift. I hung around for a while then went back home to see Karen, my wife, know what was happening."

Both Lee, 27, and Karen, 26, come from mining families. They are used to bad news of pits closing and mining communities being placed under threat. But never had there been bad news on such a scale. As he drove to work the implications flooded in. There would be the mortgage he could no longer afford. A house he would not be able to sell on a glutted property market and his skill as a mine ventilation specialist of little use for work above ground.

"It is extremely depressing because I love this job. There is nothing else I would rather do," he said. Now it seemed that the neat semi-detached home in Forest Town, the satellite television, two-line car and next year's holiday in Spain were all suddenly vulnerable.

Last yesterday morning he returned to the pit to pick up the latest news and heard the court action had won a week's reprieve. Perhaps after all the last load of high-quality power station coal had not been dug from Silverhill. Perhaps the £6 million worth of equipment that was standing ready to develop a new face would not now be left to be uselessly crushed as the mine caved in.

Silverhill made £1 million profit last year. The lads here believe the UK, an island of coal in a sea of oil and gas could well be a net importer of energy in a few years time if this goes on. I don't understand it on any level — economic or human."

The men gathered to hear a British Coal Enterprise counsellor tell them that there was life after a mine closure. But his words fell on sceptical ears.

Minister pelted with eggs

By PAUL WILKINSON

TIM Eggar, the first government minister to visit a coal mining area since the pit closures were announced, was given a rough ride yesterday.

The energy minister was pelted with eggs and his car door was kicked in by a hostile crowd of almost 300 demonstrators during a tour of Tyneside.

He had come to announce a £3-million assistance package for the North East coal fields over the next three years, but was ambushed by a crowd dominated by supporters of left-wing militant groups at the Team Valley estate. As the minister ran from his Rover into an office for talks with local mining union leaders, several eggs smashed into the doorframe beside him.

Mr Eggar said: "I understand the shock and concern of people in the area over the closures but it is unfortunate that they had to demonstrate their anger in such a way."

Latter-day Diogenes rails from his pit

By RONALD FAUX

ROY Lyne, director-general of the Union of Democratic Mineworkers, sat at the bottom of a 1,200ft mine shaft yesterday criticising the "economic madness" of pit closures while two sympathetic Tory MPs attempted to join him over a sandwich.

Mr Lyne went down Silverhill Colliery near Macclesfield on Thursday afternoon. Alan Batterham, UDM official at the pit, said: "He asked if he could visit and have a last trip down because 30 years ago he worked here." Once underground, Mr Lyne announced he would not be going back up.

He intended to protest against what the government was doing to the mining industry. "The world and his wife and two

Tory MPs have all wanted to go down to see him but the management have put a ban on it," Mr Batterham said.

From the depths of Silverhill Mr Lyne held forth in the manner of a latter-day Diogenes complaining to anyone who could reach him by telephone about the immoral attitude of the Coal Board and the government. He had no immediate plans to return to the surface. Winston Churchill, Conservative MP for Manchester Droylsden, was even fiercer in his criticism of the government. Both he and Elizabeth Peacock, Conservative MP for Barley and Spen, said they would vote against the government. But neither was allowed to visit Mr Lyne.

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15

Miners win right to seek judicial review on closures

By NICHOLAS WATT

MINERS fighting pit closures received two boosts in the High Court yesterday. The Union of Democratic Miners won the right to seek a judicial review of British Coal's decision to close eight pits, while another judge gave the National Union of Miners more time to prepare its case questioning the legality of the decision to close six pits.

Mr Justice Roch ruled that the UDM had an "arguable case" on the basis that British Coal's action was allegedly "unreasonable, irrational and disproportionate" and there had been a failure to follow proper consultation procedures. He said the full hearing should take place next week, possibly Thursday, after the courts have dealt with the separate legal action by the NUM and Nacods, the pit deputies' union.

Neil Greatrex, president of the UDM's Nottinghamshire section, said a judicial review would delay the pit closures by up to nine months. "If we are successful, it will force British Coal and the government into leaving all collieries open until proper review procedures have been exhausted."

Christopher Vajda, counsel for the UDM and the individual miners bringing the case, said that by failing to consult the miners or their trade union British Coal had broken both British and European Community law. He said that under the European Coal and

Steel Community Treaty and energy policy workers had a right to make suggestions to the Community. This would be worthless if the closures went ahead. At the full hearing the UDM will ask for a declaration that under the colliery review procedure British Coal is under an obligation "to make all reasonable and proper endeavours" to follow that procedure.

Charles Falconer QC, for British Coal, said the UDM had a hopeless case. Judicial review procedures were not appropriate because the closure of pits did not come within the scope of public law, a prerequisite for judicial review. The eight pits in the UDM case are Cograve, Silverhill, Beverton, Bishopton, Caverton, Clifton and Rufford, in Nottinghamshire, and Bolsover in Derbyshire.

The NUM's case was delayed until Tuesday when Mr Justice Vinelott agreed to hear more legal arguments after British Coal announced that no redundancy notices would be sent out until next Friday.

The judge, who was due to rule yesterday on whether to grant an injunction delaying six pit closures, said he was anxious that the case was not hurried. "It is a matter of crucial importance not only to the large numbers of miners but [it is] also of a matter of general principle," he said.

After the adjournment John Hendy QC, for the NUM and Nacods, said the decision was



SIMON WALKER

Legal boost: Alan Maitman, a miner from Westoe colliery, outside the High Court in London yesterday. He was joined by other mining colleagues protesting the closure of coal pits throughout the country

Investors eye up viable pits

By PATRICIA TEAHAN

POTENTIAL investors are eyeing the 31 doomed pits, investigating ways to make them economically viable. The government believes that only a handful will find buyers.

Malcolm Edward, British Coal's former commercial director, is heading a consortium to try to lease four pits in South Yorkshire. Australian mining group Brian Nichols Associates would run them.

The consortium is looking at Markham Main at Armthorpe, Hatfield Colliery near Doncaster, the nearby Bentley "super pit", which employs 650 miners, and Rossington, which produced one million tonnes of coal last year.

The Department of Trade and Industry plans to discourage miners from investing all their redundancy money in buyouts. It fears a political catastrophe if groups lose their savings in a failed mine.

Eric Garber of Sheffield University, contrary to yesterday's report, said that although coal produces carbon dioxide, gas power stations lead to emissions of water vapour and leaks of methane, both greenhouse gases.

Church urged to sell its electricity shares

By SHEILA GUNN, POLITICAL CORRESPONDENT

THE Bishop of Sheffield called on the Church Commissioners yesterday to sell their £3 million holding in PowerGen, one of the two electricity generating companies in protest at the pit closures.

The Trades Union Congress is also looking at union investments in National Power and PowerGen to gauge the impact of a mass disinvestment campaign among its members. Labour appealed to the 1.5 million small shareholders yesterday to protest to the two privatised companies about their reluctance to buy British coal.

Until recently, the commissioners held shares in PowerGen and National Power worth more than £5 million. A £2.6 million stake in National Power was sold in August. The church still re-

tains 1.2 million shares in PowerGen, worth about £3 million. The commissioners emphasised that the sale had been agreed for some time.

The Bishop of Sheffield, Dr David Lunn, said that replacing British coal with imported coal and gas was not going to help the shareholders or customers. He said it should be possible for shareholders to call meetings to put their views. "This would seem to me to be a very proper use of shareholders' rights and a valuable witness to the commissioners' concern for both morality and profit in business," he said.

PowerGen refused to discuss the value of the commissioners' investment, saying it was a matter of commercial confidentiality. National Power was not available for comment.



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Major's detractors suddenly discover redeeming streak of reality



By GEORGE BROCK

"IF I were the wife of a British miner today, I would be out on the streets," Irmy Richardson began her syndicated commentary on German radio yesterday.

As a couple of thousand members of Europe's fourth estate arrived in Birmingham on Thursday evening, continental commentators abruptly changed their tone. Frau Richardson is based in Brussels, married to a British Eurocrat and well versed in the subtleties of subsidiarity and the Gatt trade talks. But by yesterday morning she was scornful of the summit's detachment from reality.

"The Community's leaders pledged that they would try to

AS OTHERS SEE US

SEE US

do things closer to the people," she told her listeners. "Why do they hide themselves away in a brand-new conference centre in a city which has suffered in the recession? They ignore what is really bothering hundreds of thousands of people: fear for the future, fear for jobs, fear for their daily bread."

Newspapers in other capitals reflected hopes in the 12 governments that anodyne and harmonious declaration by the summit would conceal the intellectual and political chaos threatening to derail the ratifications of the Maastricht treaty. Writers

falling over themselves to bash British ministers for their backwardness and lack of Euro-enthusiasm ten days ago suddenly found this week that John Major had some redeeming features. Apart from anything else, he has to broker a deal with the reluctant Danes. "Major: the ideal man to play go-between," said *Le Soir* of Brussels yesterday.

The German government has been busily trying to help repair Anglo-German relations. Both the foreign and defence ministers have given interviews to main German papers in the past week in which they went out of their

way to emphasise Britain's central role in the EC, while tactfully avoiding any mention of the fact that sterling is no longer central to the Community's exchange-rate mechanism. Even if Mr Major manages to get the Maastricht bill through the Commons, wrote Gunther Nonnemacher of the *Frankfurter Allgemeine Zeitung*, the key to the future lies afterwards.

Ratifying Maastricht does not mean much if Britain does not intend to come back into the ERM. The Paris daily *Liberation* reported that French officials are nowadays comparing European unification to a river: even if there are bends and rapids, the water always flows onwards. Pierre Hasdi,

French television and radio blamed BBC Radio Birmingham and the Press Association for propagating what they said appeared to be negative propaganda about the French president.

Birmingham did not impress the reporters who went to check out the summit backdrop beforehand. "It is a black hole without any personality," the local novelist David Lodge told a Belgian paper. Almost the only light relief of the week was provided by an EC newsletter, *European Report*, which disclosed that the German economic minister had threatened to hold up ratification of Maastricht if the Community did not loosen its import rules for bananas. The

CHRIS HARRIS

EC heads agree to mend ways and heed voter anxiety

■ The declaration from the summit committed leaders to more openness but could not conceal divisions over how far this should go

By GEORGE BROCK AND PHILIP WEBSTER IN BIRMINGHAM

EUROPE'S leaders yesterday took their first tentative steps towards making the European Community more open and accountable but they failed to disguise the sharp divisions over how deep the changes should be.

A draft "Birmingham Declaration" being finalised by the leaders last night set out the Community's commitment to taking decisions closer to Europe's 340 million citizens, to making decision-making more transparent and to achieving more democratic accountability. The declaration, which made few actual commitments, is part of the programme to make the EC and the Maastricht treaty more user-friendly to Danish voters who rejected it in their June referendum. "Unless we have the people with us, our enterprise will not succeed," John Major told his fellow leaders at the start of yesterday's meeting.

"As a community of democracies we can only move forward with the support of our citizens," the draft text said. It added that the governments were determined to demonstrate the benefits of Maastricht: ensure a better public debate on EC issues; respect the history and culture of individual nations and define more clearly Community and national responsibilities. It also said that they aimed to emphasise that citizenship of the European

union would not alter or replace national citizenship. The toughest paragraph of the draft offered an interpretation of "subsidiarity", which encourages decisions to be taken at the lowest possible level. The proposed text says that "centralisation is not the right road to greater unity" and it reminds EC institutions that they can act only where the national governments have given them power to do so in the EC treaties. "Action at the Community level should happen only when indispensable." This is the strongest wording that the British government has tried to incorporate in any EC definition of subsidiarity.

The prime minister told the summit that the EC could only succeed if its peoples believed



Delors' subsidiarity is no EC "miracle cure"

"that the course we are charting is right". People needed to be convinced "that the process of European construction is in the interest of all of us, despite the sacrifices that are sometimes required". He said that there would be occasions when politicians needed to listen to voters' worries. "We must show where we can that those concerns are unfounded, but there will be occasions where we cannot show that. In those cases we must be prepared to change our ways."

Mr Major proposed that one foreign affairs council meeting in each six-month EC presidency should be televised. He also suggested that the European Commission could encourage openness by producing "green papers" on forthcoming EC law and by consulting the public in individual member states before tabling proposals.

Jacques Delors, the Commission president, warned leaders not to expect subsidiarity to be a miracle cure for the Community's present malaise. Subsidiarity "is a little less simple than it seems," he said. "We are not in a federal system and subsidiarity can only be applied in a federal system." He urged that any changes should not alter the balance between governments and the Commission.

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Diary, page 14
Leading article, page 15



Table talk: President Mitterrand and Roland Dumas, his foreign minister, at the summit yesterday. French officials denied a rumour that M. Mitterrand had been taken ill in Birmingham, and said he had "a good appetite" at lunch

Leaders line up for unhappy snapshot

By GEORGE BROCK

THE European Community's internal machinery is a ponderously slow diplomatic engine which can often carry its leaders to the wrong destination at the wrong moment.

EC leaders flew here to stand in line for a snapshot of a Community reuniting after the traumas of September's currency crisis, and for a gentle debate on the S-word, "subsidiarity". No sooner had they touched ground than they

were swept away by a tide of events and public anger, with nothing to cling to but an agenda of abstractions.

Ministers and spokesmen stranded in front of the British presidency's cold blue stage sets were bombarded with questions about why the summit was concentrating on an arcane order of priorities while ignoring the collapse of Europe's economies. The fren-

ful governments are stuck in the EC's central dilemma of the 1990s. As the EC economies integrate, politicians are still held responsible for disasters in their own backyards.

The governments agreed on the merger of Europe's currencies in the Maastricht treaty, but that document says little about how far national economies would need to co-ordinate. Now even Maastricht's

Pressing ecu into service

AMID the diplomacy and horse-trading yesterday's European Community summit in Birmingham had its lighter side.

□ *The Birmingham Post* tried to make some visitors feel at home by printing a special edition with its front page in French, billing itself "La voix des Midlands". Even the cover price of 30 pence was translated as 0.38 ecus.

There are plenty of European politicians who dream of the EC's statesmen making a series of co-ordinated grand gestures to relaunch economic growth; but the men floating these ideas are mostly out of favour.

A British official tried hard to connect the summit's compromise agenda with the crumbling world of miners' pits. "We've got to show a Europe that's moving forward in a way that's acceptable to its peoples," he said. That is what this so-called arid debate on subsidiarity is all about. It is about jobs at the end of the day.

□ Uffe Ellermann-Jensen, the Danish foreign minister, arrived for the meeting carrying two apples after reports that the European Commission had classified the variety as too small to eat. "An apple a day keeps the Commission at bay," he told reporters.

□ The people of Birmingham are not in favour of the Maastricht treaty, according to a poll on the BBC *Midlands Today* programme which found 1,452 viewers for and 5,191 against.

Trade chief fears more recession

FROM REUTER
IN HONG KONG

THE world recession will worsen unless there is an early accord in stalled talks aimed at liberalising world trade. Arthur Dunkel, the director-general of the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade, has said.

He declared: "The situation of the world economy is such that if no signal [for a successful conclusion to the Uruguay round of the world trade body] is not given very soon then we will add to the difficulties." He

is in Hong Kong for the Europe-East Asia Economic Forum, aimed at boosting trade and investment links.

The main obstacle to an accord in the Uruguay round, which could pump an extra \$200 billion (£118 billion) annually into the world economy, is disagreement between the EC and America over cutting European farm subsidies. Mr Dunkel said time was running out before a February deadline for the US administration to present results of the negotiations to Congress. He told a news conference: "I don't think governments will take the risk of failure."

German and Japanese trade officials, who were scheduled to hold talks with Mr Dunkel during the three-day meeting, said France was holding up an early agreement but expressed hopes for a breakthrough. Lorenz Schönen, of Germany's ministry of economics, said France's fusal to budge over farm subsidies was still the biggest obstacle.

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DON'T JUST GET ACROSS. CRUISE ACROSS.

Bonn wants MPs to vet Brussels law

BY ANATOL LIEVEN

IN A fresh attempt to give some content to "subsidiarity" during the Birmingham summit, the German government has proposed giving parliament the right of involvement in law and decision-making by Brussels. This right has been held so far only by Germany's federal states.

The change comes in the form of an proposed amendment to the German constitution, laying down consultation with the Bundestag as well as the upper house, the Bundesrat, which represents the states. Rupert Scholz, the chairman of the Bundestag constitutional committee, said yesterday that the House must be "genuinely and effectively involved" in order to counteract the "centralising structures" of the EC.

The amendment will need to be passed by a parliamentary majority of two-thirds in order to be adopted, but is unlikely to meet strong opposition. A paper issued by the Bundesrat yesterday described the proposed amendment as "an essential condition" for the ratification of the Maastricht treaty, and the absolute right of the German states to consultation on matters affecting them. German representa-

tives have often argued that "subsidiarity" is not a vague principle, but is rooted in the German federal constitution and political experience.

What the new amendment will mean in practice however remains vague, as does the new principle that the Bundestag will have the right to a vote before a common currency is introduced. In the convoluted words of Herr Scholz, the amendment will mean not "a right of control" but "a more intensive parliamentary control". From the point of view of impressing a British audience, this formula has the added advantage that the German word *Kontrolle* can mean either "control" or merely "check, inspection" - according to taste.

At an Anglo-German conference in Coburg organised by London's German Historical Society, German participants apparently sought to reassure British participants that "federalism" also means something quite different in German. They pointed out that Britain had no experience of a federal system and so was prey to irrational fears. Whether the British found this reassuring is not recorded.

Community ready with new lifeline for Bosnia

YUGOSLAVIA

■ European leaders said that, with winter tragedy looming in Bosnia, food and medicine will only arrive if "savage breaches of humanitarian law" are stopped

By MICHAEL BINION, DIPLOMATIC EDITOR; MICHAEL EVANS AND ADAM LEBOURNE

IMMEDIATE and decisive action is needed in the face of "an impending major human tragedy" in former Yugoslavia, the 12 European Community leaders declared at the Birmingham summit last night. They promised to speed up EC assistance and provide money and staff urgently to help the refugees.

The EC will send 120,000 tonnes of food, medicine and shelter as well as 40 lorries. It will establish a task force to support the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees which will be organised like the force set up last year to deliver food to Moscow and St Petersburg. The leaders also called for a meeting next week of technical experts on providing assistance, and a further meeting next month to assess the effectiveness of the operation.

Their decision came after a warning by the European Commission that there was still a shortfall of \$600 million (£333 million) in the \$1 billion needed now to cope with the Bosnian disaster. So far \$468 million has been pledged, including \$300 million by the EC and \$64 million by individual member states. The key question not yet decided is whether some of the money should be used to help refugees in Serbia and Montenegro, as well as those in Bosnia and Croatia.

In a strong statement the Twelve condemned the continuing violence and cruelty and "savage breaches of international humanitarian law".



Cumming may set up headquarters in Vitez



British truckers defy the gunmen

FROM ADAM LEBOURNE IN SPLIT

THE rain, the mud and the wind cannot stop them; shell fire and Serbian checkpoints through a calm and orderly fashion. While British troops began to arrive in Split this week, British lorry drivers delivering aid to Sarajevo must continue to defy the gunmen.

Based in the Croatian port of Split, the 21 volunteers set off every three or four days on the 500-mile round trip to the Bosnian capital. The 48-hour journey takes them right through war-ravaged Bosnia and finally into the battered remains of Sarajevo.

The drivers travel in a convoy of 15 vehicles, linked by fixed frequency radio. They wear flak jackets but a wrong turn could lead them into a free-fire zone where the UN insist would offer little protection. "It's 40 hours solid and very hard driving," John Foster, the team leader,

said. "Tyres blow out, engines fail and suspension springs break. The routes are relatively safe, if a bit too close to Serbian artillery positions for comfort."

Mr Foster, 52, usually works as an emergency planning officer on the Isle of Man and he has driven to and from Sarajevo 11 times since last month. "I was bored stiff sitting at a desk and I decided to give it a go," he said. "I worked as a policeman in Rhodesia, on anti-terrorist operations, so perhaps I have a slightly different attitude to life."

Beneath the traditional British stiff upper lip, the drivers admit they are affected by the destruction and most of all by the welcome they get. "I'm not an emotional individual, but when you see the faces of the children on the street, absolutely ecstatic that we have brought them something to eat, it's quite moving," Mr Foster said.



On the march: miners and their supporters staging a demonstration against the shutdowns announced by British Coal outside the Birmingham summit centre yesterday. Aid offer, page 1; Pit closures, pages 6 and 7

League plea for north to join now

FROM JOHN PHILLIPS IN MANTUA

AS Giuliano Amato jockeyed for position with European counterparts at Birmingham yesterday, the revolutionaries Lombardy League appealed to Europe to allow rich northern Italy to enter the fast lane of the Community immediately even if it means leaving behind the backward Mezzogiorno of the south.

"The north has the economic strength and the honesty to enter Europe," said Ugo Anghinoni, the secretary of the Lombardy League in Mantua, the town immortalised by Virgil where the revolutionaries scored a stunning weather-vane victory in provincial elections last month.

"Perhaps if we in the north go into Europe on our own as full members, we can take the rest of Italy later. Otherwise we risk the whole of Italy being excluded. Italy already is being relegated into the slow lane of the two-speed EC. But the north does not want to stay out. We hope the rest of Europe knows this."

Signor Anghinoni, a former multinational company manager in the foodstuffs sector who was elected to the Chamber of Deputies in April, said

that the league's two Euro MPs at Strasbourg are lobbying the European Commission already to give the north a separate status within the EC, to set it apart from the rest of Italy. He denied it would break up Italy.

"Certainly the north could go into Europe as a full member immediately if it had the chance. Nobody wants to change the frontiers of Italy." The boundary between Tuscany and Umbria marking the league's putative "Republic of the North", would simply be "the frontier of a European macro-region," the league leaders said. Signor Anghinoni added that "I hope Germany does not see us as a competitor. The north would be a workhorse for Europe."

The league and its sister, Lega del Veneto, also have stepped up a symbolic campaign against the government of Signor Amato, the prime minister, by issuing mock passports in Verona, mock coinage in Brescia, monopoly-style league banknotes in Verona and, in Emilia-Romagna, league stamps.

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Clinton emerges clear victor in debate as Bush runs out of fight

The president found himself in trouble in the latest TV debate when forced to stop attacking his opponent and stick to policy issues

BY MARTIN FLETCHER IN WASHINGTON AND ROBERT WORCESTER

AMERICA'S first Democratic administration since the 1970s looked increasingly inevitable yesterday after a second presidential debate on Thursday evening in which President Bush not only failed to draw blood, but hardly even tried.

If Mr Bush had intended to continue the ferocious assault on Bill Clinton's character that Dan Quayle had begun earlier in the week, his plans were scuppered at the outset when the audience demanded the candidates stop "trash" each other. They were compelled to stick to policy issues, where Mr Clinton enjoyed an indisputably superior command of the facts and figures.

Ross Perot produced another lively anti-establishment tirade, but his novelty and folksiness appeared to be wearing thin. His importance comes in how much support he takes from the other two candidates. A poll of 1,394 viewers showed 54 per cent thought Mr Clinton carried the night, 25 per cent Mr Bush and 20 per cent Mr Perot. Of 100 uncommitted voters only seven plumped for Mr Bush.

The sole glimmer of hope for the Bush camp yesterday was an ABC News poll, taken before the debate, that showed Mr Clinton only seven points ahead, his smallest lead in weeks. Whether that was a rogue, or reflected a real narrowing of the gap, remains to be seen, but it was almost lost in a deluge of other bad news. New figures yesterday showed the American trade deficit surged to \$9 billion in August, the worst in 21 months, with exports recording their biggest decline in five years. Less than 12 hours earlier Mr Bush had told millions of viewers that "the thing that has saved us in this global economic slowdown has been our exports".



"front-loading" had stimulated the economy.

Thursday night's debate in Richmond, Virginia, was seen as one of Mr Bush's last chances to turn the race around, but he again failed to make a compelling case for his re-election or against Mr Clinton.

The audience asked the questions and the candidates perched on stools, an unprecedented format for a presidential debate but one to which Mr Clinton has repeatedly returned ever since the New Hampshire primary. His greater ease was clear from the way he sauntered towards his questioners, one hand in his pocket, and rattled off answers point by point.

Three times the cameras caught Mr Bush looking at his watch. His strongest blows were to suggest that "character is part of being president" and "you can't turn the White House into the Waffle House". In his closing statement Mr Bush issued an almost plaintive appeal. He asked viewers to imagine the debate being interrupted by the announcement of an international crisis. Who would have "the perseverance, the character, the integrity, the maturity" to handle it? "I hope I'm that person."

The final debate takes place in East Lansing, Michigan, on Monday. The importance of this debate is that it is the last chance Mr Clinton has to blow it. If he does not, it is hard to see how the president can overcome the huge deficit he faces. It is not enough for the president to do well; he has to deliver a knockout blow and from his performance over the last week this appears unlikely.

Robert M. Worcester is chairman of Mori and a visiting professor of government at the LSE



Debating point: President Bush in a light exchange with Ross Perot during the second pre-election TV contest

Madonna whips up election apathy

FROM BEN MACINTYRE IN NEW YORK

NO ONE took any notice of the presidential debate which was on television at the party in New York to launch the release of Madonna's new book *Sex*. Perhaps this was because the 800 or so close friends of America's most famous sex idol were more interested in observing a man having the face of Madonna tattooed onto his buttocks. Perhaps it was the appealing sight of a leather-clad woman lounging in a bath of popcorn. Then again, it could have been the two men, suspended by chains from the ceiling and whipping each other, that distracted the assembled guests from the democratic process.

Whatever discussion of the literary merits of Madonna's book may have been taking place, they were drowned out by the grunts and squeals of couples simulating sexual intercourse on raised platforms throughout the converted garage in Greenwich Village. Anyone who was seeking refuge in the men's rest room found their way blocked by a woman in a cat-suit being whipped with a liquorice cat o' nine tails. It was the sort of book launch Nero might have enjoyed.

In case anyone had not seen every inch of the pop star already, large pictures from the book, which shows the singer performing as only she can, were on display — at a petrol pump in her suspender, hitch-hiking in the nude and so on.

Madonna herself even turned up briefly, wearing the outfit of a Swiss milkmaid and flanked by bodyguards. A few of the guests apparently

recognised the author with her clothes on, and she left quickly before being mobbed. A copy of *Sex* was exhibited in a glass box at the door and guarded by two men in camouflage outfits who politely informed guests: "Touch the book and Wham! Splat! You die" — a turn of phrase which echoes the literary style of Madonna herself, who wrote the *Sex* text.

Guests were required to produce identification as well as an invitation (depicting Madonna in bondage) before being allowed in. The party was paid for by Warner Brothers, Madonna's record company, and a number of the company's executives attended the bash dressed in priestly robes and looking somewhat uncomfortable.

At a similar party held to launch the book in Milan, the designer Karl Lagerfeld explained what the book is all about. "For me, it's like a sex cookbook. It's an illustration of how to do it," he said.

Nero: very much his sort of book launch

Murdoch article riles le Carré

BY BEN MACINTYRE

BARELY out of its swaddling clothes, Tina Brown's newborn *New Yorker* has been plunged into the sort of literary dispute that the British excel at and Americans find rather baffling.

This week John le Carré, the British novelist, sent an incandescent letter across the Atlantic to the British-born Ms Brown in which he accused her of publishing "one of the ugliest pieces of partisan journalism that I have witnessed in a long life of writing".

The article in question was an unfaltering piece in the October 12 issue of America's most prestigious literary magazine about the new biography of Rupert Murdoch by William Shawcross, a friend of Mr le Carré's. The book was paid for by Warner Brothers, Madonna's record company, and a number of the company's executives attended the bash dressed in priestly robes and looking somewhat uncomfortable.

At a similar party held to launch the book in Milan, the designer Karl Lagerfeld explained what the book is all about. "For me, it's like a sex cookbook. It's an illustration of how to do it," he said.



Brown denies "banging some drum" for her husband

she was trying to stiffen the American publication of Mr Shawcross's book at birth. Ms Brown responded that the "charming classes were raising their eyebrows" at the book's "blond" tone.

What at first glance appeared as an isolated spat between a clutch of British writers has now blown up into a debate about standards of journalism. Perhaps Mr le Carré's most stinging remark was that "you can detect the envy of the degenerate British standards of journalism and I find that deeply disturbing". Some literary figures here have already expressed concern that a British journalist is editing the most famous American magazine.

Ms Brown responded with a blistering fax to Mr le Carré, in which she described his remarks as "extraordinarily sexist". She added: "You are, of course, quite wrong in your assumption that I am banging some drum for Harry." As for the accusation that

NEWS IN BRIEF

Pretoria proposes amnesty

Cape Town: Crimes committed in the defence of apartheid will be pardoned under an indemnity bill published yesterday by the South African government. But there is no guarantee that the legislation will not be overturned by the African National Congress if it comes to power. (Michael Hamlyn writes.)

Kobie Coetsee, the justice minister, said that a general amnesty would have to be negotiated with the ANC before a transfer of power to an interim government. The ANC has already said that the question must be left to the interim government.

Mr Coetse thought it unlikely that the ANC would scrap the measure since it also covers crimes committed by ANC members. In any case, Mr Coetse said, the indemnity would not be likely to apply to torturers or policemen who killed detainees.

Morocco votes

Rabat: Moroccans began voting in local elections after King Hassan called for a big turnout and the government promised a free poll. Thirteen million are eligible to elect 22,282 members of 1,544 municipal councils. Results will be out today. (Reuters)

Jets stored

Canberra: Australia reassured Southeast Asian neighbours over its decision to almost double its F111 air strike force with 18 used American F111s. The government denied any defence policy change and will keep the jets in storage. (Reuters)

Experts fly in

Baghdad: Fifty UN arms experts arrived in Baghdad to dig out information on Iraq's ballistic missiles, but their leader, Nikita Smidovich, said that he expected no problems with his Iraqi counterparts despite reports anticipating a confrontation. (Reuters)

Aid restored

Colombo: Britain is to restore economic aid to Sri Lanka, suspended since London's envoy was expelled last year. Separately, Colombo appointed a retired navy commander to investigate the massacre of 164 people by Tamil guerrillas this week. (Reuters)

Canny move

Peking: Campbell's soups are proving a hit in China. In the southern province of Guangdong, alphabet soup and other varieties of the American company's products are on sale. Soon they will be available in Peking and Shanghai. (AP)

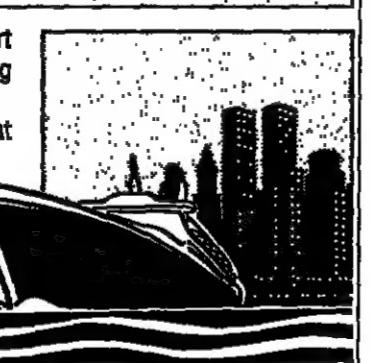
Body blows

Richmond, Texas: A fight broke out between funeral home employees and a man whose father's body was dumped on his porch after he was unable to pay cremation costs. The mortuary owner may face charges of abuse of a corpse. (AP)

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THE TIMES SATURDAY OCTOBER 17 1992

Smugglers of uranium are seized in Germany

For the second time in a week German police have intercepted atomic contraband in what is being hailed by the authorities as a blow to the growing "atomic mafia".

BY ANATOL LIEVEN IN BONN AND OUR FOREIGN STAFF

A QUANTITY of smuggled weapons-grade uranium from the former communist bloc has been seized by German police near Munich, it was announced yesterday. It is the second time smuggled atomic material has been intercepted in Germany within a week, but the first time the material has been suitable for making an atomic military device.

Friedrich Palmer, a senior customs official, said the seizure, the result of a big police operation, was "a blow against the atomic mafia". Seven people were arrested during the operation, most of them from Czechoslovakia, along with 2.2 kilograms of highly radioactive uranium 234, 235 and 238, enough to create nuclear weapons. Herr Palmer said that it was thought to have come through Poland, but its origins are still unclear. He said some of the suspects

had offered it for sale for \$500,000 (£294,000).

The suspects and the material were seized in their car at a car park near Munich in a raid by special police. According to police, the uranium was securely packed and none of the radiation had leaked.

The uranium may form part of a 20-kilogram consignment now thought to be somewhere in Germany. Its existence was revealed last weekend by a smuggler who was seized with five others by police in Frankfurt last weekend, together with a quantity of caesium 137 and strontium 90 which had been left in a luggage locker at the railway station.

Most of those arrested on that occasion were Poles. The authorities subsequently imposed a strict ban on further reporting of the case as they sought the other members of the conspiracy.

The collapse of the communist bloc, with its nuclear power stations, weapons and expertise, has led to fears in the West that material and know-how will be sold to regimes elsewhere in the world. In this context, a particularly worrying sign in this week's case is the very low price asked by the smugglers.

In Berlin Klaus Töpfer, the German environment minister, asked Colonel-General Matwei Burakov, the commander of former Soviet forces in eastern Germany, to ensure nuclear stocks were safe from black marketeers.

Joschka Fischer, environment minister of Hesse state where Frankfurt police made last weekend's swoop, said federal and regional authorities needed to join forces to prevent Germany from becoming a centre for East-West nuclear smuggling. "If this case is followed by copy-cat acts then we will face a challenge more dangerous even than the narcotics problem," he told parliament.

Dr Klaus Töpfer, the environment minister, has demanded that Europe stop importing energy from the Ukraine. He said that Germany will try to improve the security of Chernobyl through the creation of a special safety authority, but he hoped that the Ukrainian parliament would keep its promise to close the plant by the end of next year.

Chernobyl use angers Germans

BY ANATOL LIEVEN IN BONN AND OUR FOREIGN STAFF

ONE of the four reactors at the Chernobyl plant in the Ukraine, site of the world's worst nuclear disaster in 1986, has resumed operation to produce electricity for the country during the winter.

The decision provoked a furious reaction in the German parliament yesterday. Klaus Kuebler, an opposition spokesman from the Social Democratic Party, has demanded that German aid should be made dependent on countries meeting environmental safety standards in the same way that it is now contingent on respect for human rights.

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The survivor: a dazed Aksam Ismail after he was pulled from the rubble of a 16-storey block of flats in Helipolis, 82 hours after it had collapsed in Egypt's worst earthquake. A French sniffer dog named

Loggi led rescue workers to the agricultural engineer, 35. He is the only person to be found alive amid the devastation, in which more than 500 people died. He said he drank his urine to survive. His wife and

daughter died by his side. "My daughter kept asking me for a drink of Pepsi," Mr Ismail said with tears in his eyes. More than 60 bodies had been dragged from the debris of the building. The dog's handler, Joulyne

Pointreau, said: "Loggi went into the debris through a very small hole. He came out and barked four times. I knew he had found someone alive." The European Commission has granted £394,000 to help victims.

Georgian town still acclaims its tyrant son as a saviour

FROM ANNE McELVOY IN GORI

HE is still there. Towering vast and stubborn in his bronze greatcoat, Josef Dzhugashvili, better known as Stalin, presides over the main square in his hometown of Gori atop a vast marble plinth. Not a speck of critical graffiti defaces the statue and there have been no serious attempts to have it removed. Gori's residents retain an awe-filled admiration towards the dictator, despite Khrushchev, Gorbachev and the collapse of the Soviet Union. They still call him by his pet childhood name of "Soso" and insist that he knew nothing of the purges; Beria, his henchman, was to blame of course.

Nearby stands the sprawling Stalin museum and in the grounds a small shrine housing the two-room hovel where he grew up, lovingly reconstructed. Beside it stands his personal railway carriage.

The museum was closed "for repairs" some months ago but babushkas at the entrance say the closure is temporary. Asked whether they do not think the time has come to close or recast the museum, they cascade in disagreement. "Stalin won the war. He was a great man," said one. Another



added: "He was a true Georgian patriot."

The worship of Stalin is not confined to the elderly. In the town's sole hotel, he is the topic of conversation of the group of young soldiers from the newly-formed Georgian Guard who idly stroke their rifle barrels and dispatch glass after glass of brandy and sweet champagne. Georgian troops can certainly hold their drink.

"Great men often have weaknesses and Soso tended to excess," said one. "But I tell my little son that he was a hero. Why not?" Elsewhere in Georgia, such fervour is considered a little odd these days — but only a little. Vachtang Sanidze, a Tbilisi journalist, sees the phenomenon as the expression of Georgia's preference for nationalist clan-building over ideology: "Our psychology is very confused. People see no contradiction between declaring Stalin and Shevardnadze as Georgian heroes. Both are members of the family and nothing else really matters."

Tbilisi has its own secret Stalin museum run by an enthusiast who collects recordings of the great man's speeches and personal effects ranging from his tobacco tin to his handkerchief. Gori's modern claim to fame, a large Russian base, was handed over to the Georgians two weeks ago and local troops are now being trained

here before being sent to defend the breakaway region of Abkhazia. The Russians smashed most of the equipment before leaving and insisted that their successors pay hard currency before they would hand over any tanks.

Colonel Vachang Vishnade, in charge of the base, claps his hands to his forehead in dismay as a trainee tank driver lurches out of the shed taking the left door off him. "Steer, Steer," he yells in vain.

IN a case with echoes of a British court's decision this week to order a woman to have a caesarean, an 18-year-old German woman, brainwashed after a road accident, is being kept alive artificially for six months to bear her child. Doctors in Erlangen, near Nuremberg, have declared that although under German law the woman is now dead, the right of the unborn child to life takes precedence. The Roman Catholic Church sup-

ports the action and a leader of the Lutheran Church said that he had no objections as long as the father of the child and the parents of the girl wanted the baby to be born.

In contrast, a leading feminist, Alice Schwarzer, declared: "The Pope will be pleased with this — woman as a machine for childbearing. I find it perverse. Children have a right to a living mother and women have a right to control their own bodies."

'Dead' woman kept alive to give birth

BY ANATOL LIEVEN AND JEREMY LAURANCE

NEWS IN BRIEF

Berlin bids farewell to Brandt

Berlin: This city said farewell to Willy Brandt, the former West German chancellor and its best-known adopted son. Thousands of Berliners filed past his casket in the building where Brandt once served as mayor of the city's western half. He died last week of intestinal cancer. There will be a state funeral today before a private burial. (Reuters)

Angola impasse

Luanda: Neither side won an overall majority in Angola's presidential elections. President dos Santos won 49.5 per cent of the vote and Jonas Savimbi, the former rebel leader, 40.5 per cent, requiring a second ballot. But the sides may agree to share power.

War 'is over'

Maputo: President Chissano of Mozambique told a rally that a ceasefire had started and the 16-year civil war was officially over after the signing of a peace agreement with the Renamo rebels. (Reuters)

Kurds attacked

Ankara: Turkish troops attacked Turkish Kurdish guerrillas in northern Iraq who are retreating towards Turkey under attack by rival Iraqi Kurds. State television reported. Jet fighters raided the rebel positions for the third day. (AP)

Vodka tonic

Moscow: Russia has imposed a 100 per cent tariff on imports of alcohol to try to protect domestic vodka producers. Vodka produced in former Soviet republics is in short supply, while imported liquor is widely available. (Reuters)

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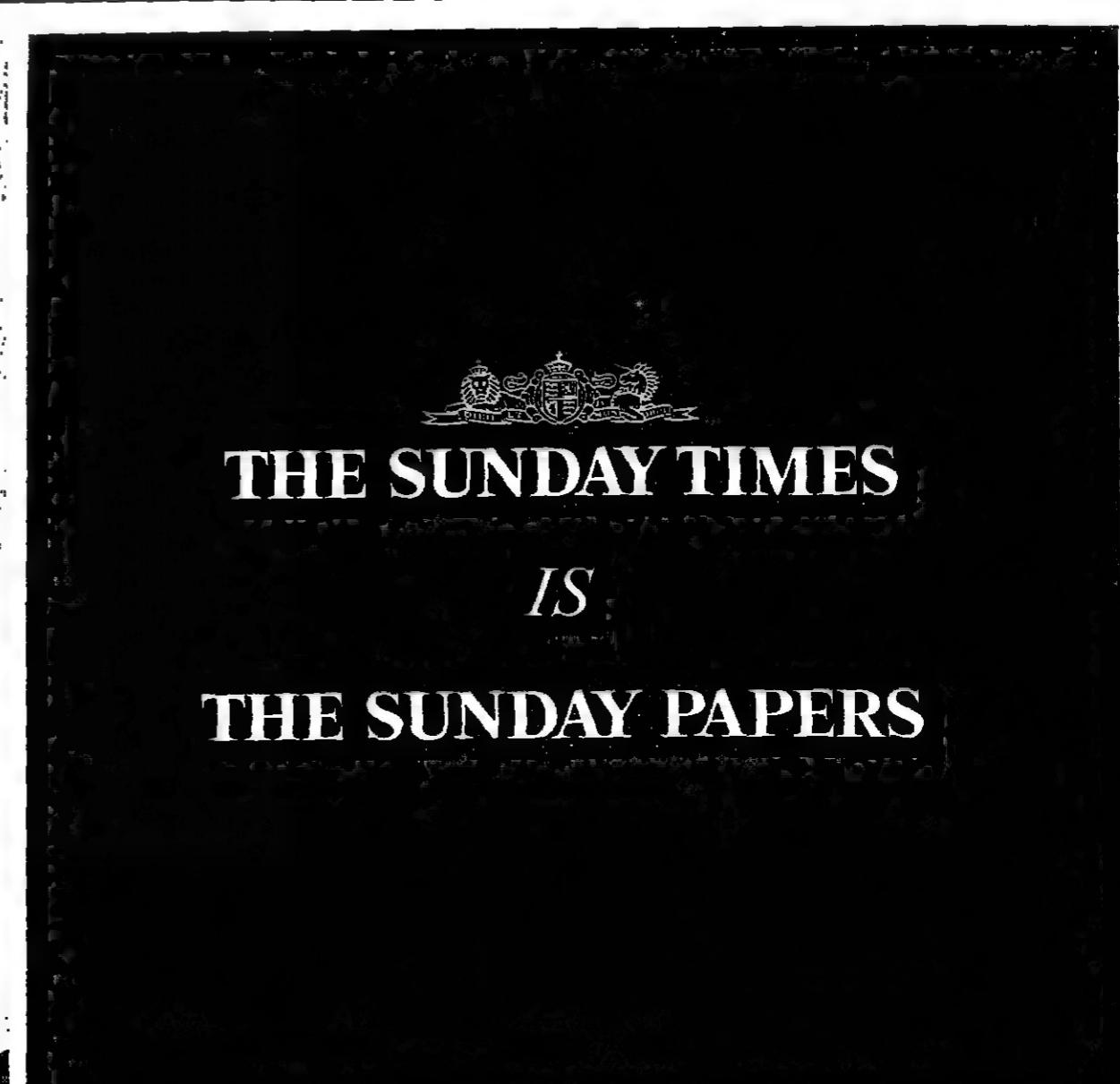


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Half of Chinese old guard decides to bow out of politburo

FROM CATHERINE SAMPSON IN PEKING

MORE than half of China's ruling politburo is to resign during this week's Communist party congress in Peking, including Yang Shangkun, the country's president.

Eight of 14 politburo members have asked to step down and have requested that they should not be considered for election to the new 175-member central committee, according to a report which was published yesterday in the Communist press.

No reason has been given for the exodus from the politburo, but there are reformists and conservatives among the eight, and the explanation appears to be simply that they are too old.

At 85, Mr Yang is 20 years older than the unofficial retirement age of 65. Mr Yang, a reformist ally of Deng Xiaoping, the senior leader, is expected to keep his title as president until the annual parliamentary session early next year, when it is rumoured he will hand over to Jiang Zemin, the party leader.

Mr Jiang is said to feel that he gets too few opportunities to travel as a Communist leader in a non-communist world, and will be invited abroad more if he is president as well as party chief.

Two hardliners, Song Ping and Yao Yili, both aged 75, are stepping down not only from the politburo but also from its standing committee, the elite group of six men which in theory has ultimate power. Their vacant seats are expected to be filled by reformists in elections next week.

Two men aged over 65 will remain on the politburo and its standing committee. They are Mr Jiang, 66, and Qiao Shi, 67, the secret police chief. Both are considered too important to step down just because of their age. The others who will go are Qin Jiwei, 78, the minister of defence; Wan Li, 76, the chairman of parliament; Wu Xueqian, 71, a former foreign



Yang: retaining the presidency for now

■ More reformists are likely to replace the old and ailing conservatives who are voluntarily stepping down

minister; Yang Rudai, 66, the party secretary in Sichuan province; and Li Ximing, 66, the unpopular hardline party secretary of Peking. Like President Yang, those holding government posts will keep them until parliament meets early next year.

The news of the politburo changes was disclosed by the Peking-run newspaper, *Wen Wei Po*, which is published in Hong Kong but frequently used by China's Communists to leak information which they are not ready to announce officially. The newspaper appeared to rule out any suggestion that the men had fallen out of favour, saying: "It is understood that the top leadership level and the praesidium have given a high appraisal of these senior people's noble character and sterling integrity."

That "top leadership level" is, ironically, a group of even older men, all in their eighties,

RIGOBERTA Menchú, 33, a Central American champion of human rights awarded the Nobel peace prize yesterday, has had a life scarred by persecution and exile.

The Indian peasant leader returned to her native Guatemala this week for only the fourth time in 11 years, saying the prize would focus attention on her homeland where some 100,000 people have died in political violence over the past 30 years. An estimated 40,000 people have "disappeared", twice the number who suffered that fate in Argentina and Chile.

Analysts noted that Mr Hu chose to compare the original cost estimated at 1991 prices with the latest figure, which is adjusted for inflation up to 1997, when the airport is due to open. (Reuters)



Glittering prizewinner: Rigoberta Menchú in her Indian garb is hailed by supporters outside Guatemala City

Guatemalan crusader wins Nobel prize

BY DAVID ADAMS IN MIAMI
AND DANNY PENMAN

RIGOBERTA Menchú, 33, a Central American champion of human rights awarded the Nobel peace prize yesterday, has had a life scarred by persecution and exile.

"Using the context of the international year, we want a discussion of the whole question of legislation on indigenous peoples' rights."

Ms Menchú believes the prize has transformed the approach of the Guatemalan government to her: "Before, I was just an Indian, I was backward, as all Indians are. I was just the daughter of some peasants. Now people receive me and I'm somebody of importance."

She called for a rethink of development and the attitude of international organizations towards it. "If these things aren't thoroughly solved then you don't have real democracy and then tomorrow there's another outbreak of war," she said. Ms Menchú believes the Ameri-



cans are entering an explosive period, and cites the examples of Peru and Ecuador. "If we look at the situation in Peru, look at Sendero Luminoso [the Shining Path Maoist guerrillas], what you see is an incredible pent-up fury, and rage and hate. Sendero, it's an escape valve, which can explain why women are so prominent in Sendero's activities. Women are sweet-natured, yes, but women are affected by many things which can have very powerful reactions in them."

Her nomination, which was supported by past Nobel winners such as Archbishop Desmond Tutu of Cape Town and Oscar Arias, the former Costa Rican president, has caused consternation in the Guatemalan government and military, which complain that she is a militant supporter of left-wing guerrillas who have been fighting in the highlands since the 1960s. The award also brought protests from American conservatives.

In an effort to sabotage her nomination the government proposed its own candidate, Elisa Molina, who works with the deaf and blind.

But others believe her courageous battle for Indian rights deserved to be recognised on the 500th anniversary of the colonization of the Americas. She travels the world, dressed always in the multi-coloured embroidered *huipil* blouse and headgear of the Quiche Maya, one of 23 tribes in Guatemala.

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Sudanese Christians 'forced to convert'

BY RUTH GLEDHILL
RELIGION
CORRESPONDENT

MORE than 60,000 refugees have fled starvation, torture and enforced conversion to Islam in Sudan, according to a Roman Catholic bishop visiting London this week.

The Right Rev Joseph Gasi Abangio said priests have been imprisoned, tortured and have disappeared while Catholics and other Christians are being forced to convert by being starved into submission. He painted a desolate picture of a starving and forgotten country where all but a few Catholic schools have been closed and children are taught Arabic and the Koran at the expense of their native African language and local customs.

The bishop said emergency food supplies are being offered to other nations or diverted to the army. An airlift run by the Lutheran World Federation and supported by Christian Aid is helping feed 300,000 people in southern Sudan.

His diocese of Tonibura-Yambio in the remote southwest has been under the mostly Christian rebel control of the Sudan People's Liberation Front since early last year. If Yambio should ever return to the control of the Islamic government of General Omar Bashir, the bishop faces certain reprisals or even banishment.

Up to 4 per cent of Sudan's 26 million people are Christian. Bishop Gasi said 60,000 had fled the country. More than 30,000 are languishing in refugee camps in Zaire, 16,000 are in three camps in the Central African Republic, and the rest live among the local Zairean population.

"Elsewhere in the world, people live peacefully with Muslims," the bishop said. "This government is doing something that is disgracing Islam. Their slogan is 'one country, one language, one religion'. They convert people with food or money. Some say they are Muslims, take the food, and the next day, they go to pray in church."

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Political control of ecclesiastical appointments no longer takes place in practice, says Edward Norman

The erastic cladding on the facade of the Church of England has been falling away now for over a century. The dislodging of a bit more — as contemplated in proposals of the Synod working party chaired by Sir William van Straaten — is not in itself of any great moment. This time it is the release of ecclesiastical appointments from political control in effect cutting out the role of the prime minister in initiating or sanctioning preferments in the Church.

Whatever the extent of the heat and light which will be generated in the forthcoming debates, the issue is, however, largely a symbolic one. For the truth is that church appointments have anyway, for at least a couple of decades, been almost entirely in the hands of the higher church authorities themselves. What is proposed now in principle is what has already happened in practice; the issue in reality is about the most suitable

means of formalising a change that has already taken place. In existing arrangements bishops are chosen officially by the Crown from among names submitted by the Church. What actually happens is that a small group of senior churchmen operate a system of internal patronage which is so effective and so discreet that few are conscious of it. As with the invention of synodal government itself, the chief losers by any formalising and bureaucratising of the appointments procedures are likely to be these senior bishops, for it is they who are at present sovereign in the process. Most senior bishops themselves are these days chosen from among the suffragans — and they are already appointed without effective political participation.

Some will lament the proposed changes because they will see them as indicators of an eventual disestablishment in England. In the sense that a general series of adjustments to constitutional practice is clearly well established, and that the ties of church and state have been unravelling now for a century or more, that will be a correct diagnosis.

But each of these steps has been taken in isolation, without raising explicit issues about the theory of established religion itself, and there is no reason to believe that the present climate is particularly likely to prove different. The Establishment of the Church is not dependent on a political voice in ecclesiastical appointments, or on political participation in any part of

church life. Establishment exists, in constitutional theory, where there is a relationship between law and religious opinion. That exists in a particularly structured form in England, for historical reasons.

P radical secularisation of government, the transfer of moral collectivism from the churches to the charities, and the value-pluralism of the intellectual culture, are not really causes of the lessening of ties between church and state: they are the evidence that changes have already occurred which render the exclusive protection of one church increasingly less attractive to the public conscience.

As far as appointments go, history provides stacks of examples

of established churches, especially in Catholic lands, where there have been high levels of political participation, or no participation at all. It is not a decisive consideration in the constitutional status of religion, though it may sometimes produce conflict.

Now it is often said that Crown appointments guarantee that independent voices can be heard in the churches to the charities, and the results cannot be easily judged. Eccentricity may be an engaging feature in some locations of the social landscape, but it is not especially desirable in the leadership of Christ's Church. A healthy institution requires independent thinkers: truth is advanced by

higher education rather than in a consideration of appointments systems.

Institutions tend, whatever the system, to get the leaders they deserve. The available pool from which these candidates are drawn, that is to say, has prescribed dimensions. Those who are dissatisfied with the leadership of the Church of England should not get upset about the mode of appointment but should turn instead to doing something about the recruitment of better priests in the first place.

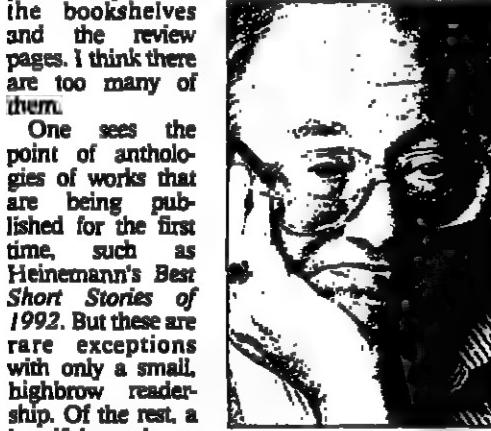
Until church polity sorts itself out on a wider front, which may take some decades, it is probably best to allow the current practices to continue, but simply to eliminate the political and highly formal stage. The only worthwhile tests for either virtue or utility, are how they will advance Christ's kingdom.

The author is Chaplain of Christ Church College, Canterbury.

A plague on these futile anthologies

Publishing's latest genre is a waste of paper, argues Daniel Johnson

A love of literature is better nurtured by devouring whole books than by grazing on gobbets. Yet anthologies are becoming the cackoo in the nests of British publishers. Literary editors groan under their weight. Among the many which have come my way in recent weeks are *The Faber Book of America*, edited by Christopher Ricks and William L. Vance; *The Penguin Book of British Comic Writing*, edited by Patricia Craig; *The Oxford Book of Villains*, edited by John Mortimer; *The Virago Book of Love and Loss*, edited by Georgina Hammick; and *The Penguin Book of Feuds, Feuds and Heartfelt Hatreds*, edited by Philip Kerr. These and countless similar volumes are jostling for precious space on the bookshelves and the review pages. I think there are too many of them.



How does Mr Mortimer get involved in this bastardised literary form?

One sees the point of anthologies of works that are being published for the first time, such as Heinemann's *Best Short Stories of 1992*. But these are rare exceptions with only a small, highbrow readership. Of the rest, a handful, such as John Gross's OUP anthologies of essays and aphorisms, are works of genuine scholarship which unearth obscure gems. And there is a case for rehashing immortal texts which are more often misquoted than read.

But the new scatter-shot type of anthology, designed to hit as many target audiences as possible, has no didactic purpose: its sole aim is to sell copies. And so well do they sell, compared to other hardbacks, that publishers cannot rush them out fast enough. People will, apparently, buy these concoctions, and writers will assemble them, with far less discrimination than would apply to other works.

This happens for several reasons. An average 500-page anthology seems relatively good value: the prices of the volumes mentioned range from £14.99 to £17.50, about the price of a new hardback novel and cheaper than the £20 or more which a full-length biography would normally cost. Because anthologies have something for everyone and nothing long or demanding, they are supposed to make good presents, though I suspect a few people buy them for their own bedside tables. The anthology can grab the browser's attention with a clutch of familiar names; but just as records which offer only short sound-bites from operatic or symphonic music may spoil the listener's enjoyment of the whole work, so literary read-bites may ruin a good novel.

How do anthologists emerge? Rarely from the anthologist's own desire to communicate his or her enthusiasm; they are mostly busy professionals who rightly consider other less lucrative work to be more important. More often, a publisher has an idea and, choosing a suitable moment such as the day after mortgage interest rates have risen, puts it to an established author who is wondering how to pay for the cottage in Hay-on-Wye or the Cotswolds. The literary or academic swell may be prevailed upon by the argument that "it won't be much trouble". Often it is not, and it shows.

Take John Mortimer's *The Oxford Book of Villains*. How does a man of Mr Mortimer's intelligence find himself compiling a chapter on "Tyrants", which includes a Wodehouse extract about Bertie

Wooster's Aunt Agatha a few pages after a series of quotations by Adolf Hitler? Ghastly jocular juxtapositions are inevitable in this bastardised literary form. Another kind of lapse leads him to place an extract from *Rumpole at Sea* next to a poem by Shelley. The most charitable view of this is that Mr Mortimer was encouraged to include some of his own writing by his publisher.

The same criticisms apply to Philip Kerr, one of the brightest young crime writers around. He has certainly not enhanced his reputation with his *Penguin Book of Feuds, Feuds and Heartfelt Hatreds*. Hitler pops up here, too, explaining how he became an anti-Semitic sandwiched between James Agate and Robert Lynd. There is no editorial commentary, although later on there are several other pieces on anti-Semitism — by Primo Levi and the Russian writer Vitali Vitalev. Deadly serious material such as this trivialised by appearing alongside extracts from journalistic ephemera: Harold Evans' *Good Times, Bad Times*, a book about the Sun called *Stick It Up Your Punter*, a piece by the Evening Standard director on "Pety Feuds in Journalism".

Few if any of the stories by women writers collected for *The Virago Book of Love and Loss* by Georgina Hammick (herself a fine short story writer) are old chestnuts and most deserve to be better known — but not as part of a "seductive collection", as the blurb calls it, none too subtly aimed at the friends and comforters of the lovesick or lovelorn. A story which would shine alone becomes tedious when it is the umpteenth treatment of the same theme.

At least *The Faber Book of America* has no therapeutic subtext. Christopher Ricks, one of the two editors, is among the best of living literary critics, and this volume reflects his own erudition and sound judgment. Nor is the organising principle, a nation and culture, by any means ridiculous. Yet the exercise of cramming everything from *America the Beautiful* to Lillian Hellman's *Scoundrel Time* between hard covers fails to arouse enthusiasm. As in *Desert Island Discs*, one of the attractions of the anthology is supposed to be that the selection offers insight into the personality of the anthologist. But Ricks, I feel sure, has a livelier mind than is reflected here.

Of this batch, Patricia Craig's *The Penguin Book of British Comic Writing* has the fewest pretensions and is possibly for that reason the most enjoyable. It is pleasant to meet again old familiarists from this page — Philip Howard, Bernard Levin, Alan Coren — with nothing else in common besides being good for a laugh. Unlike love, hatred or villainy, comedy can wriggle out of the anthologist's straitjacket.

But they sell, these anthologies. How boring do they have to become before the sales dry up? Must anthologists start anthologising one another? There is already a *Smithsonian Book of Books*. It may not be long before we see *The Penguin Book of Penguins*, *The Virago Book of Viragos*, even *The Faber Book of Fabians*. Maybe then the readers will suddenly send a message to publishers, via their pockets: *That's enough anthologies Ed.*

Betrayed by the intellectuals

Years of state funding and flattery have sapped the spirit of the French intelligentsia, writes Charles Bremner



Where are the rebels now? In 1970 Jean-Paul Sartre was arrested for selling his banned newspaper

said the tabloid *Parisien Libéré*, voicing the view of the unwashed. The ratings show that fewer than 0.75 per cent of sets are tuning in, so not even the intellectuals are watching, and the rigorous *Le Monde* has just reminded the station's boss that Molière and Mozart did not share his distaste for the idea of attracting audiences.

Most of the country have ignored the president's desire to improve them and stuck to the kitschy variety shows which litter what is normally known as the PAF, for *Payage Audiovisuel Français* (French Audiovisual Landscape).

That expression, with its grand abstraction, is typical of the Leninist *langue de bois* which is often

employed by the philosopher-president and his followers when they talk about such things as "building the European space". As Marc Fumaroli, one of the most vocal dissidents, points out in his book *L'Etat Culturel*, the achievements of Mitterrand's state-sponsored Renaissance are measured not in chefs d'œuvre but in "espaces".

"évenements" and "actions", many worthy, like the proliferation of museums, and some just plain silly, like M Lang's blessing of graffiti vandals and decoration for Sylvester Stallone. The love of empty intellectual terminology has even led cafés to call themselves "dialogue spaces".

M Fumaroli's point, shared by many, is that artists and writers have always flourished in independence and adversity, not in the stifling embrace of the state. One could not imagine André Gide or Paul Valéry jumping on the craven bandwagon of creative stars who signed on to M Lang's official campaign for a "lively and communicative yes" to Maastricht. It sounded awfully like those petitions which the Soviet culture ministry used to extract from the writers union.

Where, wonders M Fumaroli, are the great works of architecture, the cinema, novels, music or anything else generated by M Lang's largesse? All divisions of the arts are suffering from introspective sterility.

Occasionally someone comes along to expose the nonsense talked by the "muellos" and the politicians who emulate them. A current hit in the genre is the book *Les Petits Poissons Rouges* (Little Goldfish), by Pierre Boncenne, a television producer who works on Bernard Pivot's popular literary talk-shows. Why, M Boncenne asks, do the French listen so reverently while Bernard Henry-Levi and all the philosophers and writers hold forth on subjects they know nothing about?

The two Marguerites, Duras and Youssouf, excel in such "planetary dissertation", he notes. Lately they have pronounced on such matters as ecology, communism, homosexuality in ancient Greece, the dimension of football pitches, the destiny of Japanese civilisation and the baking of four-grain bread. The model of high-toned fatuity was Mairax himself, says M Boncenne. In *La Condition Humaine*, the minister-writer impaled such lofty insights as: "The 20th century will either be religious or it will not be."

None of this will deter French politicians from their belief that they must flaunt their culture to get elected. None would dare admit to a taste for a Jeffrey Archer. M Mitterrand is, of course, the exquisite master of this field. He makes sure, for example, that the media keep abreast of his outings to his favourite bookshops and during the Gulf war the country learned that he was drawing on inspiration from a poet called Leon-Paul Fargue. Even humble mayors will mention that they are spending the holidays catching up on St Simon. The worship of intellectual brilliance is so deep-rooted that a little *lise-majesté* from dissidents is not going to change things.

Heseltine's bottom lines

THERE is more than a whiff of hypocrisy about Michael Heseltine's role in the announcement of the pit closures before the subject went to the cabinet and with only a handful of ministers in know.

After staging the most sensational resignation from government in living memory when he walked out of a cabinet meeting in January 1986, Heseltine told every camera and newspaper in sight that he was resigning less over the merits of the rival Westland bids than over the principle of "cabinet collective responsibility".

In an article in the *News of the World* Heseltine delivered a stinging attack on decisions taken in secret without consulting cabinet colleagues. "Why did I make my stand and leave a cabinet I had been so proud to join? The fundamental reason is my refusal to accept decisions taken without the proper authority of cabinet. It is a constitutional matter," Heseltine said.

Indeed it was. But is it not equally a constitutional matter that many members of the cabinet first read of the pit closures in Wednesday's newspapers? Why was

Heseltine apparently perfectly happy to be party to a secretive decision of the kind which almost seven years ago he had considered a resigning know?

The most charitable view is that he has changed his mind about the nature of cabinet government. If so, the *volte face* is dramatic. Denouncing the government for its lack of collective leadership, Heseltine told *Thames TV*: "I left the cabinet because at that stage collective responsibility... was actually set on one side." Similarly he told *Weekend World*: "The cancelling of the choice of a discussion that could have established collective responsibility broke the workings of the constitution."

Asked to explain what constitutional differences the President of the Board of Trade perceived between the two events or whether he had simply changed his mind, a departmental spokesman denied any inconsistency in his minister's position. But then, perhaps, redundancy was weighing heavily on his mind.

Close to the wind

WHEN they decided to put the flags out to welcome the EC summit yesterday Birmingham city elders could not have realised what a headache they were creating. The Foreign Office decreed that the

flags should be flown in alphabetical order, using the 12 countries' own names — D for Deutschland, H for Hellas and so on. All went well until officials came to the flags of Luxembourg and the Netherlands, placed next to each other under the FO's strictures. Council officials thought they had got it right. But when they stood back to examine their work they were less sure. The two flags are virtually identical, distinguishable only because one uses a darker shade of blue than the other.

Civic leaders, anxious to be welcoming, ordered a double, then a triple, check. They think they got it right but no one was sure yesterday — including it is said, the Dutch and Luxembourg delegations.

As EC leaders sat around the conference table yesterday they were in familiar territory. The table

had been used for the Yugoslavian peace talks and was ferried up the M1 for the occasion. The omens, however, are poor. Within hours of John Major bringing the Balkans conference to an end bitter fighting had resumed there.

Out of place?

THE traditional calm of the English Speaking Union has been shattered by the decision of Lord Pym, a former foreign secretary, to invite King Hussein of Jordan to deliver the annual Churchill lecture next month. Pym, chairman of the union, set up in 1918 to promote international links, is being urged to reconsider the decision.

Hussein will speak at Guildhall to a packed audience of ambassadors, peers and politicians. Alan Lee Williams, a former Labour MP and one-time director of the union, says: "King Hussein is not suitable because of his friendship and support for Saddam Hussein during the Gulf war. Feathers will fly."

Civic leaders, anxious to be welcoming, ordered a double, then a triple, check. They think they got it right but no one was sure yesterday — including it is said, the Dutch and Luxembourg delegations.

union's marketing director. "But the views of the speaker cannot always accord with those of everyone in the audience."

• Coats to Newcastle is perhaps an inappropriate phrase these days but how about Guinness to Dublin? A Yorkshire firm has picked up a lucrative contract to sell 150,000

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DUBLIN BUYS GUINNESS FROM YORKSHIRE
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bottles of the world's strongest brand of Guinness — to Ireland. The Guinness Special Brew, now made in Belgium, shipped to a distributor in Dublin, then transported across the Irish Sea. Guinness sold its Special Brew rights to the Belgian in the 1920s and it has not been sold in Ireland since.



A LOW SUMMIT

■ EC leaders have their heads in the clouds

John Major cannot, surely, have believed his own words at Birmingham. The summit must, he said, "put an end to the economic and political turbulence" in the European Community. In the best conceivable conditions, a single day's confabulation could produce no more than a temporary lull, and yesterday's conditions were hardly propitious. With Mr Major distracted by the uproar over pit closures and no agreed panacea for the EC's troubles in sight, Birmingham could amount to little more than group therapy for leaders desperate to bring their voters back into line on Europe.

There was a little good news yesterday. At least some of those present now realise that confident messages that all Twelve will ratify Maastricht miss the point. The unresolved Danish question apart, the popular revolt over Maastricht will not be stilled by a display of united determination to press on with a treaty that Europe's peoples are not sure they want. Unfortunately, about the only thing the EC leaders could agree on at Birmingham is that they do not want to tear up Maastricht and start again. They have little time between now and the Edinburgh summit to rejoin the real debate in the Commission and national governments.

This debate has expanded far beyond the treaty's substance, uncovering anxiety and resentment about the way the EC works now, and serious misgivings about the kind of European Union that Maastricht would create. These anxieties reach deep into Europe's history. Voters worry that Maastricht will weaken each country's democratic restraints on the exercise of political power. And they are not in a mood to take on trust vague assurances about the sanctity of national identity.

The task of winning confidence back has been complicated by recession. Maastricht and unemployment are becoming associated in people's minds. Even the crowning glory of the British presidency, the opening of the single market, could be threatened unless growth picks up. But the summit fluffed its best chance of renewed growth

yesterday, by failing to press France to accept America's latest offer on the Uruguay Round. This was a strategic error. Monetary union is at the heart of Maastricht but the European Monetary System looks to few people like the key to prosperity and stability which the summit proclaimed it to be. Voters will not buy EMU at the price of a deflationary spiral to match that of the 1930s. The EC needs to be seen as part of the solution to recession, not a contributory cause.

Mr Major was right, therefore, yesterday to look beyond Maastricht and insist that people must be convinced that the course the politicians are charting is right, and that "European construction" is worth the sacrifices it will, under Maastricht, require. But he made little headway in fleshing out a response. He must come up with something much better than public sessions of the European Council to make the EC's workings genuinely open and comprehensible. His proposal to require the Commission to come up with "green papers" before proposing new laws has more substance, but is no substitute for clarifying the balance of power between the Commission and national governments.

On this key question of subsidiarity, the summit failed to mask deep divisions not only on methods, but principle. Small countries fear that weakening the Commission would lead to domination of the EC by Germany, France and Britain; poor ones, that a weaker Commission would mean a smaller "convergence" honeypot. Britain wants to roll back intrusive EC laws; France insists on defending the *acquis communautaire* of existing law. Mr Major must steer clear of a war of directives, in which decisions on where power should lie are forgotten in arguments over competing lists of what to scrap, what is sacrosanct. The EC has lost itself too long in quarrels which mean little to voters. Mr Major made a brave start at reaching for a new, more responsive and accessible tone yesterday. He has eight weeks to win assent, at Edinburgh, for policies to match.

CABINET, WHAT CABINET?

■ Tories are right to question the Government's competence

Yesterday the Chancellor cut interest rates by a much needed 1 percentage point in an effort to prove that the government could do something right. Even that did not distract attention from the pit closures debate. Nor should it have.

Deciding to close 31 mines with the immediate loss of 30,000 jobs and perhaps 70,000 more in secondary industries was no small matter at the bottom of a recession. In part, it was economically foolish. But compounding the ruthlessness of the message was the incompetent manner of its delivery. Industrialist supporters of the Government rightly recoil from this crude mismanagement. Conservative supporters of the UDM, grateful for the support of the breakaway union in the miners' strike, feel shame at the lack of consultation about the closures.

Lady Thatcher was frequently excoriated for her high-handedness. Decisions were taken by Cabinet committees packed with her supporters and then rubber-stamped by full Cabinet. This was meant to change with her successor. For weeks after Mr Major's arrival, Cabinet ministers seemed to breathe the heady air of liberation. They could say what they thought in Cabinet — indeed, they were even asked for their opinions.

Mr Major has quickly returned to the bad old ways. Yesterday Douglas Hurd, the Foreign Secretary, said he knew there was a problem with the coal industry but did not know what the solution would be. He was never consulted about the pit closures, nor were many of his Cabinet colleagues. Even Gillian Shephard, the employment secretary, had no idea of the timetable.

The official version has it that Michael Heseltine planned to take his proposals to full Cabinet yesterday before making a parliamentary statement on Monday. But the profusion of leaks apparently forced British Coal into making the announcement on Tuesday instead. This does not ring true. Had the timetable remained the same — and there is no reason to suppose that it would not have done — the planned sequence of events would have involved closing some pits today, two days before the statement in Parliament. Anyway, it is hard to believe that a minister as robust as Mr Heseltine would allow himself to be swayed from his purpose by leaks.

No minister has yet explained convincingly why quite so many pits have to close. None has addressed the dangers of relying instead on coal that has to come halfway round the world before it reaches Britain. None has talked of the balance of payments implications or has justified the rigging of the electricity market that ensures that British coal cannot compete. If the behaviour of the NUM is the problem, as Lord Parkinson claims, why have the pits of the UDM not been treated with more consideration?

Mr Heseltine will face a deeply hostile House of Commons next Wednesday. There is even a danger that Labour will produce a motion moderate enough to ensure a Government defeat. Such a defeat was not inevitable. If it happens, it will be due to spectacular mishandling by politicians who ought to know better and whose survival depends on their learning better fast.

LAST OF THE SPARTANS

■ Lord Franks handed down an example his country needs

In the shadow of his death, Lord Franks seems the last representative of an endangered English species: high mandarin administrator. The term the Great and the Good was invented for people like him, as surely as the boast "I am the greatest" was introduced by Muhammad Ali. Oliver Franks was not just a member of the First XI of the Great and the Good. He was its captain, wicket-keeper and last man in.

This is not a team that anyone can apply to join, though the United Kingdom is noisy with meretricious applicants. They will never make it, because a modest (even if disingenuous) reluctance for the public arena needs to be shown. Throughout his career Lord Franks continually tried to return to Oxford, earnestly as Cincinnatus wanted to get back to his plough. Intellectual eminence is injured. Lord Franks was a moral philosopher, and attributed his success at the Ministry of Supply during the war by reference to the philosophy of Kant.

A touch of the higher eccentricity is in order. In his early years Lord Franks was a notoriously cold fish, attracting the famous observations that now fill the obituaries. In social intercourse with him, an acquaintance observed: "One always has to break the ice, and when one does, one finds a lot of very cold water underneath." After being put through the Franks wringer, an Oxford don said: "Now I know what the Day of Judgment will be like, though I expect God

to be more human." As usual in Britain, a draw of witty wit helps. Lord Franks described the Pentagon as an immense monument to modern man's subservience to the desk, and defined an Oxford secret: "You may tell it to only one person at a time."

Lofty impartiality to worldly affairs is the final qualification. It made Lord Franks the obvious choice for chairman of committees on controversial or embarrassing topics. For the past generation he has been in the chair for such problematical affairs as Crichel Down and Oxford's role in higher education, official secrets, and the Falklands War, where his enquiry came to an untypical whitewashing conclusion.

Take him for all in all; we shall not look upon his like again. This is partly because it takes time and age to make the qualities of Greatness and Goodness visible. It is also because of the necessary shift in British public affairs from a citizen to a professional army. The increased activity of public life has destroyed the traditional breeding grounds of the Great and the Good. Britain did not need them all quite as much as many of them thought it did. But it will always need men of the stature of Lord Franks.

The golden days of that elegant old network have gone, with its higher sinecures making possible service to the state interspersed with periods of intellectually rigorous leisure. We are all professionals now, even our great public amateurs.

Pit cuts: the quest for an alternative

From Viscount Caldecote, FEN

Sir, So a billion pounds is to be spent on redundancy payments to 30,000 miners — but that is only for starters. At least another 20,000 people in ancillary industries will soon join the unemployed miners, costing close on half a billion pounds p.a. in social security payments and lost tax revenue.

In addition, the deficit balance on our overseas trade, already running at £12 billion p.a., will be further increased by the cost of importing millions of tons of foreign coal.

All these sacrifices might perhaps be worthwhile if there was any certainty of long-term advantage. But clearly there is not, for who can tell what the cost of gas and imported coal will be? Already the Major Energy Users' Council has warned of the possible adverse effects on power prices (letter, October 16).

It is shabby treatment, too, of men who have worked hard and effectively to make major improvements in productivity. And contrary to what Mr Heseltine has said, there is an alternative. How much better to invest these billions of pounds into the industry to make it yet more productive and reduce its costs.

That would be a much safer policy, bringing a rich dividend in employment and prosperity, instead of adding to the sterile misery of unemployment, and the further decline in our industrial strength.

Yours faithfully,
CALDECOTE,
House of Lords.

From Mr Bernard C. R. Ory and Mr Irvin Robinson

Sir, You reported on October 14 that Steven Littlechild, the electricity industry regulator, has threatened to report National Power and PowerGen to the Monopolies and Mergers Commission for excessive profit-making. Yet we have seen no comment by him this week on the effect of the generators' decision to burn less coal.

Section 3 (3) of the Electricity Act 1989 says that Steven Littlechild and Michael Heseltine "have a duty to protect the interests of consumers of electricity ... in respect of prices".

Steven Littlechild and Michael Heseltine owe it to us to explain why they have not intervened to prevent these pit closures that will devastate our community and will not benefit the electricity consumer.

Unemployment here in Mansfield is 11.7 per cent and it is estimated that this may double if the closures proceed. Mansfield 2010 (a partnership organisation between the local business community and the district council) is trying to attract new business to replace mines that have already shut over the last ten years. We do not know how we can cope with the magnitude of the new closures.

Yours faithfully,
BERNARD ORY,
IRVIN ROBINSON,
Pariside, The Park,
Mansfield, Nottinghamshire.

From Mr E. A. Rawes

Sir, British Coal is still a nationalised industry and its assets are therefore public assets. It apparently believes that each mine to be closed is worth nothing at all as a going concern and that only a scrap value.

As custodian of a public asset, is British Coal legally entitled to assume without even attempting to obtain offers for more than scrap value? If a union or anyone else were to make such an offer is British Coal entitled to ignore it?

Yours faithfully,
E. A. RAWES,
Casa Oropendola, La Celina,
29690, Prov. de Málaga, Spain.

From Mr Alister Sutherland

Sir, Mr Heseltine is quoted as saying (report, October 14) that keeping open the existing 50 pits would mean that the average household electricity bill would be 3 per cent higher than it need be. The same report quotes Mr Neil Clarke, Chairman of British Coal, as saying that gas was 16 per cent more expensive than coal.

May we hope that both Mr Heseltine and Mr Clarke will publish the quantitative economic evidence on which they are respectively relying?

Yours faithfully,
ALISTER SUTHERLAND,
Trinity College, Cambridge.

From Mr Duncan Heenan

Sir, In making the miners' redundancy pay (in excess of the statutory amount) dependent on their co-operation in closing down pits, the government is, as I see it, making this pay "contractual" from a tax point of view. The payment is therefore likely to attract income tax, whether or not the miners co-operate.

As this compensation will be paid in a single tax year, it could well be taxed at 40 per cent, reducing the actual cost to the government, and benefit to the miners, by £400 million. This tax is likely to be assessed in arrears, and thus avoid the miners' notice until after the event. One wonders whether this is by mistake or by design.

Yours faithfully,
DUNCAN HEENAN,
21 Gotherington Lane,
Bishops Cleeve, Gloucestershire.

Weekend Money letters, page 28

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

1 Pennington Street, London E1 9KN Telephone 071-782 5000

JPM 15/10/92

Oxbridge and others leagued as one

From Mr Howard Goldsobel

Sir, Your university league tables (October 12 and 13) are a bold effort, and I am all for them; but they still tell us little more than we knew already — namely that Oxbridge, London and a handful of large civic universities will always dominate a pecking order based mainly on resource allocation and research selectivity.

Research is a valuable activity, but its immediate importance to undergraduate teaching is exaggerated, particularly in the arts and social sciences. In fact students in prestigious departments often complain that they never catch a sniff of the research bigwigs (which makes a nonsense of some professed staff/student ratios).

It is the quality of first-degree courses that the prospective applicant needs to know a lot more about. Only when the Higher Education Funding Council completes its rating of undergraduate courses in the "old" universities (as HMI did for the former poly) will we have a truly comparative picture of use to students and parents.

Yours faithfully,
HOWARD GOLDSOBEL,
18 Russell Road, Moor Park,
Northwood, Middlesex.

From Mr T. U. Burgner and Mr Roger Brown

Sir, Your leader of October 14, "The ranking of universities", clearly shows that you have missed the point of universities' objections to your monolithic league-table. You urge the universities to help you do it better next time. But we believe the table was wrong in principle. Let us say why.

The claim by the compiler of the table, Professor Tom Cannon, that the study "included a much wider range of variables than any other I know" (report, October 13) does not alter the fact that you have created a ranking whereby all institutions are measured by the ruler of the traditional research university with small teaching groups, taking entrants with the best A levels.

Little surprise, then, that all the "old" universities come out on top, the ex-politechnics below, and Derby University, which was a college of higher education, on the bottom. They have been measured by the ruler of Oxbridge, and come up short.

If you had chosen different criteria, and introduced such factors as the number of vocationally related

courses, part-time students and mature-age entrants, the flexibility of entry requirements, evening and weekend teaching, and so on, then you would have produced a very different result.

Your ranking and your leader reflect the procrustean thinking which has damaged Britain's education system for too long. There is no simple scale of excellence: excellence is defined as fitness for purpose. Universities, now more than ever, cater for different markets and satisfy different needs; needs which are not all met on the banks of the Cam or the Isis.

Your leader is right to say that league tables of institutions are anathema. This is because students should choose a university on the basis of the course which best fits their objectives.

That course may be in any institution, at any level, and of any type. Wherever it is, the universities' stringent quality controls ensure that the course will be suited to its purpose as any other course, anywhere else. International experience confirms this.

To every complex question there is a simple answer. You have provided such an answer, and we object to it — mainly in the interests of our prospective students and their parents who may be misled by it.

Yours faithfully,
T. U. BURGNER (Secretary),
Committee of Vice-Chancellors and
Principals of the Universities of
the United Kingdom

*ROGER BROWN (Chief Executive),
Committee of Directors
of Polytechnics*

29 Tavistock Square, WC1.

From Lieutenant Colonel Peter Robinson

Sir, Your universities guide was published too late to be of much use to many young people applying for entry in 1993. University application forms including Oxford or Cambridge as a choice must reach UCCA by October 15.

The late appearance of the guide is all the more disappointing because it contained a good deal of useful information. Please try to publish it earlier next year.

Yours faithfully,
PETER ROBINSON,
The Georgians,
High Street,
Market Deeping, Lincolnshire.

October 12.

Gauchers disease

From Mrs Susan Lewis

Sir, Your report of October 1, "Doctors forced into tough choices", which highlighted the high cost of Ceredase (the enzyme replacement therapy for Gaucher's disease), failed to point out that the cost of this therapy depends on the weight of the patient.

A small 5-year-old like Thomas described in the report needs considerably less. You cited a figure of up to £115,000 for the first six months' treatment, but that is for an adult. For a child weighing, say, 3 stone the cost would be £32,000.

Doctors in the UK have found that treatment using a third or less of the dose can be just as effective if it is given rather more frequently. An adult's treatment at a lower dose might range from £25,000 to £40,000. The high cost of Ceredase must be balanced against the cost of treatment if it is not administered.

The media regularly used to criticise small fines on wealthy individuals as meaningless. The unit fine corrects that situation. The democratic decision to gear fines to means enjoyed multi-party support in both Houses of Parliament. It cannot be for courts to countermand this.

Contrary to the impression given by some reports, there are very many people in the criminal justice system who believe that the Act as a whole represents a substantial shift forward in thinking about punishments.

Yours sincerely,
SUSAN LEWIS (Secretary),
Gauchers Association,
25 West Cottages, NW6.

A long holiday

From Mrs Ethel Milicevic

Sir, I have received a document from Bath City Council granting me and my successors exclusive right of burial in a certain grave space in their Haycombe cemetery. It is signed by the Director of Leisure and Tourist Services. Package trips to heaven, I wonder?

Yours sincerely,
ETHEL MILICEVIC,
Westfield House,
Weston Road, Bath, Avon.



COURT CIRCULAR

BUCKINGHAM PALACE
October 16: The Queen arrived at Wellington Station this morning and was received by Her Majesty's Lord-Lieutenant for Northamptonshire (Mr John Lowther).

Her Majesty drove to Weatherby and was received by the Chairman (Mr Christopher Weatherby) and made a tour of the building.

The Queen then opened the renovated Northampton Guildhall and unveiled a commemorative plaque.

Her Majesty honoured the Mayor of Northampton (Councillor Frank Teno) with her presence at Lunch.

The Queen this afternoon opened the new Northampton High School, unveiled a commemorative plaque and was received by the Chairman of the Governors (Mr J Corrigan).

The Lady Susan Hussey, the Rt Hon Sir Robert Fellowes and Major James Patrick were in attendance.

By Command of The Queen, the Earl of Aylesford, Her Majesty's Lord-Lieutenant for the West Midlands, was present at Birmingham Airport this morning upon the Arrival of The President of the French Republic, and welcomed His Excellency on behalf of Her Majesty.

The Duke of Edinburgh, attended by Brigadier Miles Hunt-Davis, arrived at Heathrow Airport, London, this afternoon from Greece.

Her Royal Highness, International President of WWF - World Wide Fund for Nature, subsequently chaired an Executive Committee Meeting at Windsor Castle. The Lord Buxton of Alexa and Brigadier Miles Hunt-Davis were in attendance.

BUCKINGHAM PALACE
October 16: The Princess Royal, President, Save the Children Fund, this morning visited the Fund's shop, High Street, High Wycombe, and was received by Her Majesty's Lord-Lieutenant for Buckinghamshire (Commander the Hon John Fremantle RN).

Her Royal Highness then visited the Special Care Baby Unit, Wycombe General Hospital, and was received by Mr John Paterson (Vice Lord-Lieutenant of Buckinghamshire).

The Princess Royal, Patron, International Rescue Corps, after-

wards opened the new Headquarters and National Stores, Glazier Mill Paper Limited, Wood Green, High Wycombe.

Her Royal Highness subsequently visited Pangbourne College in celebration of its 75th Anniversary, and was received by Her Majesty's Lord-Lieutenant for the Royal County of Berkshire (Mr John Henderson).

Mrs Charles Rennie was in attendance.

KENSINGTON PALACE
October 16: The Princess of Wales today visited Portsmouth and was received by Her Majesty's Lord-Lieutenant for Hampshire (Lieutenant Colonel Sir James Scott-Brown).

Her Royal Highness this morning received the Honorary Freedom of the City of Portsmouth at the Guildhall. The Princess of Wales subsequently visited the City Museum, Museum Road.

This afternoon Her Royal Highness visited the Buckingham Green Play Area, Buckland, finally, the Princess of Wales visited the Neop-natal Unit, St Mary's Hospital.

Mrs James Lonsdale and Captain Edward Musgrave RM were in attendance.

KENSINGTON PALACE
October 16: The Princess Margaret, Countess of Snowdon, Patron, Tenovus, was present this evening at a Dinner to celebrate the Twenty-first Anniversary of the Opening of the Tenovus Research Laboratory, Southampton, held at Lainston House, Spaniard, Winchester.

Her Royal Highness this morning received an Audience by Her Majesty's Lord-Lieutenant for the County of Hampshire (Lieutenant Colonel Sir James Scott-Brown).

The Lady Glynneconner was in attendance.

KENSINGTON PALACE
October 16: The Duchess of Gloucester, Patron, National Asthma Campaign, was present this morning at the 10th Asthma Gift Fair at the Hurlingham Club, Ranelagh Gardens, London SW6.

Mrs Michael Wigley was in attendance.

The Duke of Gloucester, Colonel-in-Chief, The Royal Pioneer Corps, was present at the Annual Past and Present Officers' Dinner at Simpson Barracks, Woolton, Northgate.

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OBITUARY

Baron Franks, OM, GCMG, KCB, KCVO, CBE, PC, ambassador, academic and chairman of the Franks Committee which investigated the causes of the Falklands war, died at his home in Oxford on October 15, aged 87. He was born in Bristol on February 16, 1905.

A Whitehall civil servant not known for being lavish with praise said of Oliver Shewell Franks that he had "an alpha treble-plus mind." The judgment was just, but it was also insufficient. The name of Franks became linked with absolute integrity. Whenever a post of major responsibility came up, be it the editorship of *The Times*, the chancellorship of Oxford University or the next director-general of the BBC, then the name of Oliver Franks would be canvassed.

Surprisingly Franks was 77 before he accepted the post that was to give him most public prominence the chairmanship of the inquiry into the Falklands war. Sir Robert Armstrong, as he then was, travelled to Oxford to make sure the Franks' faculties were as sharp as ever. He needed little persuading. Franks, steeped in years of public service with most of them close to the summit, accepted the job. In the summer of 1982 his committee was closest with the evidence for six hours a day and Franks confessed that he used Braudel on the eastern Mediterranean as relaxing evening reading. After the witnesses had been called the report, which generally exonerated the government from blame in its reaction to Argentinian aggression, was delivered in mid-January 1983.

Perhaps Oliver Franks would have preferred to remain at Oxford: he always claimed that academic was his natural habitat. If so he was not going to say. He had, after all, long experience as a diplomat. He was an outstanding public servant, at different times British Ambassador in Washington, chairman of Lloyds Bank, the head of two Oxford colleges, professor of moral philosophy and, at the end of the second world war, permanent secretary in the Ministry of Supply.

Any one of these positions, each of them requiring different gifts, would have been an achievement for most people. Franks conquered all of them, and served with distinction in them, because of an exceptional combination of that first-class intellect, administrative skill and a sense of dis-

cretion and balance in handling delicate public issues. Those who did know him well found him an austere, even aloof, man. Jokes circulated around Oxford to the effect that once the ice was broken there was much cold water to be found below. But he nonetheless had a considerable capacity for human relations when relaxed.

He began his career in the academic world, and it was to Oxford that he always liked to return, to the informal give and take of college life. But it was clear from early on that academic life alone could never be enough for him, and that led him to venture out into the world of public and international affairs.

His time in Washington as ambassador from 1948 to 1952 was perhaps the peak of his career, if, though, the Falklands assignment was to bring him more fame. Those were the difficult years after the end of the war, and he established a particularly close relationship with Dean Acheson, the secretary of state, which helped to lay the foundations of the postwar period. But he later made a distinctive contribution, as chairman of Lloyds Bank to the City.

Franks was born of Nonconformist stock. His father, the Rev R. S. Franks, was for many years principal of the Western Theological College at Bristol. His family also had close associations with the Society of Friends, and these links were further strengthened by his marriage in 1931 to Barbara Tanner, whose father was a well-known Quaker in the business circles of the West Country.

After receiving his early education at Bristol Grammar School, Franks entered The Queen's College, Oxford, in 1923 as an Open Scholar in Classics. There his outstanding qualities soon established him as the leading undergraduate of his time. Apart from his academic successes — his distinguished First in Mods and Greats, and later the John Locke Scholarship in philosophy — he participated fully in the general life of the college. He rowed for the college, and — though a teetotaller — was elected to the select membership of the Eagle Club, which was dedicated to the pleasures of good food and wine.

After taking his Schools, Franks was elected to a fellowship and the predectionship in philosophy at Queen's in 1927. After a year on the Continent, he began teaching in 1928 both for Lit. Hum. and PPE. His philosophical interests lay, rather in the moderns than in the ancients.



and after a time he stopped teaching and Aristotle. His lectures drew huge audiences by reason of their clarity and orderliness of presentation; while his tutorials provided a considerable stimulus to the undergraduates, especially the older ones.

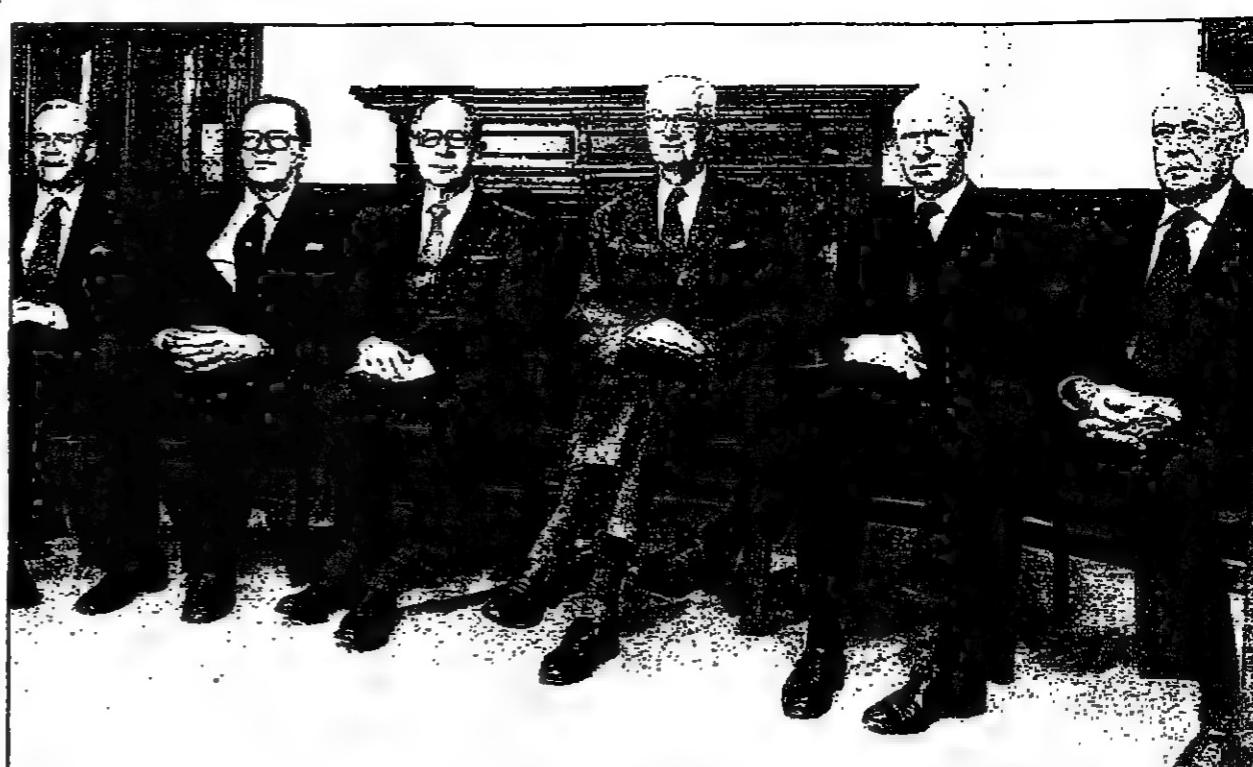
In spite of his academic distinction it was nevertheless doubtful whether Frank's real interests were primarily academic. It soon became clear that he was fascinated by the arts of administration and planning, that he loved to apply the analytic processes of philosophy to the problems of practical affairs. One of his earliest exercises of this kind was to conduct an inquiry into all the possible needs of the college, immediate and remote, and to assign to each its appropriate degree of priority. Another congenital task was the reorganization of philosophy teaching at Chicago, where he spent a term in 1935 as visiting professor.

Franks had always made it

clear that when he had completed 10 years as a don he would seek the first suitable post elsewhere. In 1937 he applied for the vacant chair of moral philosophy at Glasgow, and was successful.

But his active tenure of the chair was to be short. On the outbreak of war he joined the Ministry of Supply as a temporary civil servant and entered upon one of the most spectacular periods of his career.

His exceptional administrative talents now found their full scope. His progress was meteoric and he finished up in 1945-46 as permanent secretary to the Ministry of Supply and Aircraft Production. The secret of his success, apart from his breadth of vision and his incisive intellect, was twofold. First, he knew how to delegate and so reserve his energies for the major problems of policy. Secondly, when he had made the best decision that he could, he did not worry about it afterwards. This enabled him to bear the strain of his responsibilities with a cer-



The Franks Committee, from left, Sir Patrick Nairne, Mr Merlyn Rees, MP, Lord Lever, Lord Franks, Lord Barber and Lord Watkinson

tain serenity, even during the worst days of the bombing. The award of a knighthood in 1946 was a recognition of his contribution to the war effort.

On retiring from the Civil Service, Franks was offered various posts of national, even international, importance. But it was no surprise to those who knew his love of Oxford that he chose instead to accept the vacant provostship of Queen's. This appointment gave him great happiness, but did not prevent him from accepting to Government demands for his services. During 1947 he was absent for a prolonged period as chief British delegate to the Paris Conference on Marshall Aid, where he received the irreverent nickname of "No Lolly Ollie". Then, in 1948, he announced that he was obliged to resign the provostship to become ambassador to the United States.

When Franks arrived in Washington at the end of May, 1948, the tide was running in his favour and he was the man to take it at the flood. It was as an economic expert that he was welcomed in the United States, as one who knew, to quote *The New York Times* when he landed, "as possibly no other man in Europe the aims, possibilities, and attendant national responsibilities of the Marshall European recovery programme". But he proved himself to be much more than that — "a fine diplomat". Truman called him.

Ernest Bevin, despite the very considerable difference in educational background, trusted Franks and listened to his advice. So did Sir Stafford Cripps. Truman and Acheson were well aware of this, and it made him the more valuable to them, at the same time strengthening his own hand.

His task was made easier by the extraordinary understanding that grew up between Acheson and Bevin. But his own contribution to the consolidation of that understanding was important.

In his memoirs Acheson mentions an unorthodox proposal put to Franks: "on an experimental basis I suggested that we talk regularly and in complete confidence about any international problems we saw arising". They met at the cocktail hour, unknown to their superiors in Whitehall and the White House. The experiment ran for four years. On many Sundays Franks drove his own small car to Acheson's country house in Maryland, unseen by journalists and unsuspected by Congressmen. The four-and-a-half years of his mission now appear to have been the golden years of Anglo-American cooperation. Understanding was probably deeper and serious disagreements fewer than during the war. Two great crises — the Berlin blockade

and the Korean war — were met and surmounted in unity. The North Atlantic Treaty was drafted and the foundations of a European defence system were laid.

Frank's most valuable quality through those years was his lucidity. He had an extraordinary ability for clarifying complicated issues. More than once in his memoirs Truman refers to this quality: "Sir Oliver Franks... as he had done in previous meetings, proceeded to pull the threads of the conversation together... Sir Oliver Franks... skilfully summarised the discussion we had." These remarks were typical of Truman's justified admiration.

Wiseley he did not try to outstay the Truman Administration. His experience with Dulles, who had been in the State Department as an advisor for much of his time, had not given him any great confidence in the new secretary of state as a colleague. And he knew that the Republicans would find it hard to trust anyone who had been so close to Acheson. A new ambassador would have a better chance than he could have.

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WANTED IN WEST 8 P.M. 1000. Who visited the White Show on Oct 10th and who bought a diamond and platinum ring? Tel 071 551 6310.

WORD WATCHING

Answers from page 16.

AGNATE

(b) A knight by the father's side; a collateral descendant by male links from the same male ancestor, from the Latin born to, added by birth, from the past participle of agnoscere to know.

VERBICERATE

(c) To shift, skulk, equivocate, hedge, argue, etc., no corresponding word is known in any other language. Its form is a derivative in -er like *flitter*, *waver*, but no suitable primitive root is known.

Machete: "Be there no ingrate found no more believed." That pattern is in a double sense. That keep the word of promise to our own. And break it to

our hope."

ACCES

VISA

ANEX

DINERS

En

Bush hopes dashed by fall in US exports

THE Bush administration's hopes that exports would boost America's sluggish economy, and improve the president's chances of re-election, were dashed by official figures that showed the biggest fall in exports for five years and a further fall in industrial output.

Industrial output fell 0.2 per cent in August, the third decline in four months, in part reflecting strikes in the motor industry and falling defence industry output. Manufacturing suffered its worst decline since January. In August, industrial production fell 0.4 per cent, a slight upward revision from initial data.

The commerce department said the August trade deficit widened sharply to \$9 billion, the biggest shortfall for almost two years, from a July deficit of \$7.8 billion.

Exports dropped by 6.1 per cent in August, with falls registered across a broad range of agricultural and manufactured goods, reflecting weakness in key overseas markets. Imports fell too, but by only 1.3 per cent.

Although allowance has to be made for a possible dampening of trade by Hurricane Andrew in August, many Wall Street economists fear that a widening trade deficit is starting to hold back the domestic economy, instead of providing the lift President Bush had predicted.

In the first eight months, the deficit was running at an annualised rate 17 per cent higher than last year.

THE SUNDAY TIMES

Mining disaster

6 The pit closures decision triggered a national outcry, with charges of industrial vandalism and the gratuitous discard of jobs in the depth of a recession.

But some of the charges are false, many are misplaced... **Business - The Sunday Times tomorrow**

RHM wants a bigger slice of cake

STANLEY Metcalfe at Ranks Hovis McDougall has come face-to-face with the compelling logic that has already been accepted by his counterparts at BAT Industries, Racal and ICI, that it is better to turn a profit yourself than leave it in the business for a predator.

The RHM break-up cannot be said to be prompted by the Hanson bid, in that it was clearly in train well before his Lordship swooped on October 5. But the scheme was sparked by the widespread perception that under Mr Metcalfe's leadership, RHM's share price had spiralled down to a point where the company was clearly worth more in another form or with another owner.

It is therefore appropriate that the existing board, including the new finance director, have no declared future with the three demerged companies, which will be run by the line management.

RHM has no significant debt to be assigned to the successors. Some cash will probably go to the weak milling and baking business, which has contributed most to RHM's decline. This will be balanced by debt within the grocery brands and the cake business, both of which would come to the market with enormous "For Sale" signs attached.

Cakes makes less than £20 million of profit and would probably be taken out immediately by one of the big players in food, while various possible buyers have already been sniffing around groceries. RHM has had to go the cumbersome route of a demerger and float

to ensure all proceeds go to shareholders only because of the taxman, who would take a cut of straight trade sales.

Analysts have indicated the demerged businesses could be worth 260p-280p purely on trading grounds eventually — at least four to six months down the line. Over and above this is a premium for control paid by any purchaser, which remains pie in the sky. All this requires some leap of faith by shareholders who rejected 465p from Goodman Fielder Watie four years ago, given that the Racal and ICI demergers have proved long drawn out affairs and not without last-minute hitches.

Lord Hanson is offering 220p but will probably increase RHM shares in the market to 245p. Shareholders without a burning need to cash in at that level might as well sit in for the ride and see what his Lordship does next.

Attwoods

"GREEN is good" was, until recently, one of the City's favorite maxims. But after Body Shop's fall from grace and the sudden halt in earnings growth from the waste management sector, environment-friendly stocks have lost their lustre. Attwoods has been hit harder than most because of its extraordinary problems last year when only a bungled emergency rights issue rescued it from a credit crunch. Sentiment has not been helped by a series of legal problems in America, one of which resulted in a £3.5 million extraordinary charge being includ-



Pleasing news from Germany: Ken Foreman, the chairman of Attwoods

ed in last year's accounts. But the main difficulties stem from the collapse in spot metal prices, which led to an £8 million fall in profits from Mindis, the American metal recycling subsidiary. UK profits are also under pressure. One brighter spot is Germany, where Attwoods' temporary buildings subsidiary is benefiting from the uncertainty surrounding property tide in the

eastern regional states. Also on a positive note, the balance sheet now looks under control after the rights issue and a new \$200 million banking facility. Gearing has fallen from 92 per cent to 36 per cent.

Taxable profits for the year to end July fell 8 per cent to £35.6 million and earnings per share 35 per cent to 8.06p because of more shares in issue. The full-year dividend was held at 5p after paying a maintained 3.25p final.

The City is looking for £40 million pre-tax profits from Ken Foreman, the chairman, this year, giving 8.4p of earnings and putting the shares on a forward multiple of 13 times. There is little support for the shares and Attwoods' fundamental strengths are unlikely to be reflected in the price in the short term.

NatWest paves way for \$500 million issue

NATIONAL Westminster is paving the way for an issue of up to \$500 million of "exchangeable capital securities" through filing a registration statement with the US Securities and Exchange Commission. The securities would initially qualify as tier 2 capital but would be convertible into non-cumulative preference shares, ranking as tier 1 capital for capital adequacy purposes.

NatWest said the proceeds raised from any issue made under the filing would be used for "general corporate purposes". Richard Goeltz, NatWest's chief financial officer, said: "The instrument is very attractive in terms of its flexibility." He said the issue had nothing to do with any weakening in the bank's capital ratios, which he described as "very strong". NatWest made an issue of similar securities last year. Mr Goeltz said: Michael Lever, an analyst at Smith New Court in London said: "The timing will depend on market circumstances." He added: "NatWest might want to use it if the dollar remains strong against sterling and they decide to hedge more of their capital against dollar movements."

Profile, page 21

Avonside chief leaves

GORDON Carruth, the chief executive of Avonside Group, the housebuilding and building services group floated by Cannon Street Investments in March, has left the company and is likely to resign from the board. Shares in Avonside responded with a 10p fall to 74p, compared with the offer price of 106p. Mr Carruth is understood to have left by "mutual agreement", and is expected to receive contractual compensation of about £100,000. A company spokesman said: "We perceive the need to have a more clear hierarchy and a more clear policy." Christopher Glynn, non-executive chairman, will assume executive responsibility pending the appointment of a new group managing director. He said the group continues to trade profitably and still has cash.

Oil activity falls 25%

OIL exploration and appraisal activity in the UK sector of the North Sea fell 25 per cent in the third quarter over the same period last year as low oil prices eroded exploration funds, according to Arthur Andersen & Co, the consultant. Drilling levels continued to fall due to gloomy conditions in the oil industry. Overall appraisal and exploration work is expected to fall 23 per cent this year. A low oil price and heavy five-year development commitments for most operators weakened exploration budgets. Money is also being diverted to new areas like the former Soviet republics. To date this year, 116 exploration and appraisal wells have spudded on the UK continental shelf, 81 of them wildcats.

Volex buys in Far East

VOLEX Group, the products and systems company, is buying a 60 per cent stake in Mayor, a Singapore manufacturer of data and power cord assemblies for the medical, computer and appliance markets. Volex is paying about £6.5 million. A vendor placing of more than 1.9 million new ordinary shares, underwritten by SG Warburg at 275p per share, will raise approximately £5.26 million. Existing shares rose from 286p to 293p. Jay Puk, Mayor's former owner, remains 40 per cent and will remain chief executive. In 1991, Mayor made pre-tax profits of \$2.3 million (£847,145) on sales of \$22.7 million.

Brooks Service slides

BROOKS Service Group, the textile rental and retail services company, has passed the interim dividend (1.3p) after incurring pre-tax losses of £104,000 in the half-year to end-June, against profits of £336,000 previously. Turnover was £11.7 million, down slightly from £11.8 million but trading profits fell sharply from £574,000 to just £55,000, which was insufficient to cover an interest charge of £269,000. The deficit was partly offset by an exceptional credit of £10,000 arising from compensation for the relocation of a shop and the sale of rental goodwill. Losses were 0.58p a share, compared with earnings of 1.85p.

Dunton improves

DUNTON Group, the brick maker and property group quoted on the Unlisted Securities Market, reports a substantially reduced taxable loss of £803,000 in the year to end-May, against a loss of £4.45 million last time. The company's turnover declined from £3.24 million to £2.74 million. The loss per share was 1.01p, against a deficit of 7.74p a share last time. The company remains cautious and does not anticipate a return to profitability until recovery in the economy and the property sector in particular. Dunton shares firmed 1p to 1.2p.

Baris passes payout

BARIS Holdings is passing its interim dividend (2p) after exceptional legal costs of £358,000 pushed the fire protection and insulation group into the red at the half-year stage. The USM-quoted company suffered a pre-tax loss of £70,000 in the six months to end-August, against a profit of £403,000 last time. Turnover held up well, despite the tough conditions, edging £11.3 million (£11 million). The company has a relatively healthy order book of £10 million. There is a loss of 1p (3.7p earnings) a share, against earnings of 3.7p a share previously. Baris shares eased 3p to 53p.

Hawtai losses grow

HAWTAL Whiting Holdings, the automotive design consultant that issued a warning on trading at its last year-end, incurred losses of £1.4 million in the six months to the end of June and is again passing the dividend. Losses were 22.9p a share, against losses of 10.7p last time. Turnover fell to £27.3 million, from £30 million in the comparable period, and there was an operating loss of £1.4 million, compared with profit of £178,000. The company said benefits of reorganisation undertaken earlier in the year should be reflected in the second half results.

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Jobs go at Clarke Foods

A TOTAL of 178 redundancies were announced by receivers called in earlier this week to the Lyons Maid ice cream firm, Clarke Foods.

There were 35 offices in Greenford, west London, 67 at a factory in Liverpool, 37 at a plant at Stourbridge, West Midlands, 27 at a factory at Telford, Shropshire, and 12 from the sales force.

Ips Jacobs, of Robson Rhodes, the accountant, said the redundancies make Clarke Britain's second-largest manufacturer of ice cream, with a

workforce of 97. "Many of the jobs now being lost are expected to be replaced after a successful restructuring of the company's business, which is currently at the lowest ebb of its seasonal cycle," he said.

The receivers have had nearly 50 enquiries, including from companies in Europe and America, and are optimistic it will be saved. Clarke is estimated to have debts of at least £40 million. Shares were suspended at 8p early this month, after trading at a peak of 165p.

Clarke Foods is a relatively healthy order book of £10 million.

There is a loss of 1p (3.7p earnings) a share, against earnings of 3.7p a share previously.

Miller: "a hiccup"

Clarke Foods' latest financials show a loss of £1.1 million for the year to end-June, against a profit of £403,000 last time. Turnover fell to £27.3 million, from £30 million in the comparable period, and there was an operating loss of £1.4 million, compared with profit of £178,000.

The company said benefits of reorganisation undertaken earlier in the year should be reflected in the second half results.

International measurement of the heat content of coal.

In the latest edition of his *International Coal Report*, Mr McCloskey said: "No estimate of gas generation prices has been presented by the trade department to justify the closure of the coal mines."

Much of the reason for the reduction in demand for coal that led to this week's decision to close 31 pits with the loss of 30,000 jobs is the so-called "dash for gas".

Power generators and the electricity supply companies are racing to build gas-fired power stations.

The generators argue their gas-fired stations will be competitive with coal.

Dr Alf Roberts, PowerGen's commercial director, said the company expects to recover the cost of building gas-fired generating plants over the life of its gas supply contracts.

PowerGen can produce electricity 20 per cent cheaper than independent generators who came into the market later.

Unlike supply companies, generators are unable to pass on the higher cost of gas-fired power to their customers. The higher gas-fired power prices are likely to come from independent firms, in which electricity supply companies have stakes. All but one supply companies have stakes in independent gas-generators, with which they have signed supply contracts. They say the independents give competition to National Power and PowerGen. The contracts, often for 15 years, were not put out to tender. Dr Roberts said PowerGen had not been asked to compete in the bidding to provide supply companies with long-term gas-fired power. M J McCloskey said the surge of gas buying for new power stations has raised the gas price from 16p to 21p a therm, equal to a rise of 154p to 200p a gigajoule today.

Heseltine claims on cheaper gas rejected

By PATRICIA TEHAN

CLAIMS by Michael Heseltine, the trade secretary, that gas-fired electricity generation is cheaper than coal-fired generation based on coal from British mines were criticised yesterday. Gerard McCloskey, a coal analyst, said: "Not only is gas more expensive than coal on the proposed new contract price levels, but it is also more expensive than the existing much higher prices being paid to British Coal."

This week, Mr Heseltine said gas was cheaper. "There is no case if you are a generator of electricity for buying from anything other than the cheapest, most reasonable source," he said. "They would not be buying gas if coal was cheaper. The new coal contracts currently under negotiation between British Coal and the power generators are priced at 150p a gigajoule, compared with 185p a gigajoule this year. The generators buy their coal in

price per gigajoule. A gigajoule is

BUSINESS PROFILE: Derek Wanless

Quiet calculator keeps the bank board in check

Even if you already know Derek Wanless, the chief executive of National Westminster Bank, pretend for a moment that you do not. Try to think what a chief executive of one of Britain's big four clearing banks with 99,000 employees, 2,800 branches and assets of £126 billion, might look like. Now look again at Wanless. The two will not be the same.

Wanless, for a start, is younger. At 44, he is the youngest ever chief executive of the NatWest and, with a double first in mathematics from Cambridge, he is also the first ever graduate. His clothing might look more or less the part — grey or navy blue suits — and his overall appearance, steady eyes apart, is fairly ordinary. His most surprising characteristic is his manner. Words such as stuffy and pompous, so often used to describe prominent bankers, do not apply. Wanless — salary £267,000 last year — comes from a new generation of clearing bankers and is, in a way, the leader of that pack.

Those who have met Wanless, escorted by Lord Alexander, the chairman, across a luncheon table at the bank's Lombardy headquarters, say they were underwhelmed. That apart from his Geordie accent, he left no lasting impression. That is, however, more a comment on the scale of Alexander's personality than a criticism of Wanless. Alexander, a silk of exceptional ability, is effortless in the way he gets people to talk, but also, as befits a barrister, enjoys theatricality and finesse. Wanless, an equally good listener, with the same talent for persuading people to talk, is a far quieter man. He is especially quiet in Alexander's presence, insiders say. Some point to Wanless's curriculum vitae and say that it speaks more of potential than results. Wanless would probably agree. He complains that he was often moved on too quickly, from one posting to another during his 22-year career with the bank. "As soon as I got into one job, I was moved off to another. I regret not being able to spend more time in each one." He was catapulted into his present job in April this year, after 18 months as head of UK financial services, as Tom Frost was elevated to deputy chairmanship so that he could concentrate on helping the DTI in the enquiry into NatWest's involvement in the Blue Arrow scandal.

Although Wanless had clearly been earmarked for greater things early on, to the outside world he was not necessarily the most obvious choice of successor. The City, in fact, would have preferred the job to have gone to John Tugwell, who turned around NatWest's loss-making operations in America. He, they would argue, had achieved something tangible. But Alexander insists that it is wrong to suggest that Wanless lacked a track record. "If you look at the issues he has addressed, his

I think he's a superstar. He is still feeling his way at the moment but his stature will grow'

ability is obvious," says Alexander. "When I first set eyes on him he was making a very professional and rather formal presentation to the board and was clearly someone with ability who would go far. But what is even more attractive... is that he is also very personable. He thinks things through like a chess player. If I put a sentence to him which may lead somewhere else, he might correct one word before he accepts it, but he does it in such an amenable way that I agree with him."

Just as Wanless can charm Alexander, so, it would seem, he is starting to charm the City. In the six months since he took the helm, NatWest's share price has been steadily rising and Barclays has assumed NatWest's place as the *bête noir* of the sector. Fund managers suddenly all want to have NatWest in their portfolios again. Bearing in mind the Blue Arrow affair, the £155 million loan to Maxwell, the £2 billion bad debt provision in 1991 and the recession, Teaco chairman Sir Ian MacLaurin, a NatWest non-executive director, concedes that Wanless has taken over "at a very difficult time" but will not hear a word against him. "His influence is already coming through quite clearly. In the papers non-executives receive, for instance, everything is well thought out, clear and not too banky. I can understand them even though I'm just a common grocer." That confidence is shared by Wanless. He might be genuinely modest, but he is never self-doubting. "I have always had plenty of self-confidence. It comes from success," Alexander reveals that on the self-appraisal form Wanless filled out when starting at the bank in answer to the question "What is your ambition?" he wrote: "Chief executive." Wanless says he would not have joined the company were the fulfilment of that ambition not a possibility and says he was not too surprised when he was eventually offered it. "We had been following events."

By "we", Wanless is referring to his wife Vera, the mother of his five children — aged from seven to 18 — whom he met in his native Newcastle. He clearly discusses most matters with her, and, according to those who know him well, she exerts a strong influence over him. She is untypical of many other banking wives, at least in so far as she still works part-time as a civil servant.

Wanless, an only child, was brought up in a flat in the centre of Newcastle and then a three-bedroomed semi-detached house. Home is now a five-bedroomed Charles Church property in Surrey. His father, a strict presbyterian, was a stonemason in a cement factory. Wanless, a scholarship boy at both Cambridge and grammar school,

Tapie says Adidas is no longer for sale

FROM REUTER IN PARIS

BERNARD Tapie, the French business tycoon, said that Adidas, the German sports goods company indirectly owned by his Bernard Tapie Finance, is no longer for sale. On Thursday, Stephen Rubin, chairman of Britain's Pentland Group, said his company was calling off its proposed £215 million acquisition of Adidas after finding surprises in pre-acquisition investigations.

Asked in an interview with *Les Echos*, the financial daily, if he was seeking another purchaser for Adidas, Mr Tapie said: "No. Get it into your head that we are no

longer selling. That does not rule out a professional one day being brought into the shareholders' club."

Mr Tapie said that his personal share of the 340 million to 509 million franc capital injection judged necessary for Adidas would be about Fr100 million. The balance on a Fr2 billion loan granted in 1990 for his acquisition of Adidas stood at Fr200 million.

Rene Jaeggi, Adidas chairman, said in Munich that Pentland's decision to withdraw its bid could damage the German company's competitive position. The collapse of the deal was the result of a "short-circuit" in negotiations between Pentland and M. Tapie. "This has nothing to do with Adidas," Mr Jaeggi said.

He said the affair could shake consumer confidence in Adidas, which was battling for market share with other sporting goods companies.

Mr Jaeggi insisted that the company's financial base was sound. It would still carry out by the end of the year a plan to boost its capital by DM 60 million.

In July, Mr Jaeggi and a group of investors made an unsuccessful offer to M. Tapie for Adidas. He said he would not try to revive that bid.



Rubin: called off deal

Carol Leonard meets the man who has achieved his ambition to be head of National Westminster Bank

says he was offered — and declined — a chance to study for a PhD. At school, he says he was best known for his sporting ability and his gift for mathematics. Now, he cites one of his most distinctive traits as his ability to control his emotions. "In an organisation of this size it is useful if you are controlled but also able to articulate well."

Wanless's emotions were certainly under control when Alexander offered him the job as chief executive. He admits only to a small smile. Yet both friends and colleagues say that his self-description of being cold and unmotivated is incorrect. Wanless then explains his lack of a more emotional reaction when offered the job by saying, "I'm always very cold and calm when people give me information. I just absorb and think about it and try and work it through." The chess player in action. "I was trying to think of the implications," he adds. Similarly,

angered — by "sloppiness, I like people to be punctual" — he is likely to appear "tinder rather than hotter. I become more and more factual".

When it comes to inevitable comparisons with Frost, there are many similarities. "We are both very personable," agrees Wanless. But there are differences too. Wanless is generally accepted to be brighter.

He evades that question. "I'm more analytical in terms of the detail I get into. I think that's very helpful at the moment. I'm more interested than Tom was in how we measure all aspects of the business, not just short-term profits, but long-term profitability."

When it comes to talking business, the nice guy image starts to fade and the jester harden. We discuss the doubts that were raised at the time of his appointment about whether or not he would be tough

enough to handle the coterie of problems he had inherited. He argues that he is in a no-win situation. "On the one hand, we are accused of being ruthless and not caring, on the other, we are accused of not being ruthless enough. Could I be ruthless? Oh, I would never fire someone in anger."

Wanless agrees that he has been ambitious, but has never been accused of "ruthless ambition. I would always put the bank before myself." A company man then? "Yes, probably." He spends quality time with his children at weekends.

With his ambition achieved, what comes next? He has been mooted as a possible governor of the Bank of England in ten years' time. Wanless laughs. His laughter is squeaky and his shoulders rise up and down. "I haven't even thought about that. I would just like to do this job for long enough to make a difference."

Sir Ian MacLaurin has no doubt that he will. "I think he's a superstar. He is still feeling his way at the moment but his star will grow. Derek Wanless is a man who are going to hear a lot about."



Untypical team: Derek Wanless and his wife Vera are not stereotypes of the banking world

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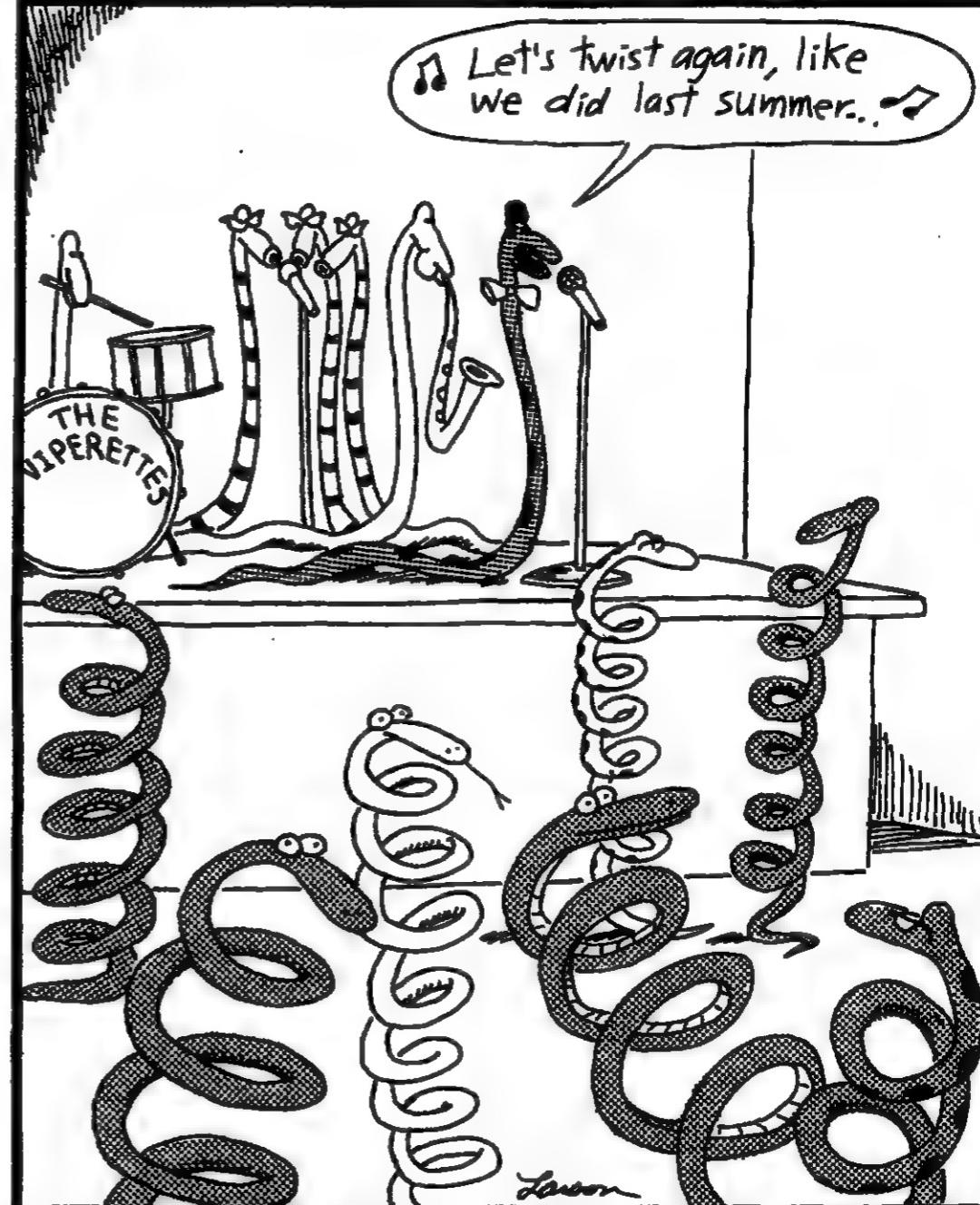
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- INHERITANCE DEVICE 26
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WEEKEND MONEY

THE TIMES SATURDAY OCTOBER 17 1992

The scavengers are rubbing their hands with glee at the prospect of the commission to be earned on 30,000 redundancy cheques to be handed out to miners plus all the others being distributed at the rate of one a minute across industry.

Never have there been such rich pickings that are so easy to get hold of. Tied agents of insurance companies and other financial advisers are more than willing to offer their services free to any company laying off staff. All the firm has to do is give them access to those being made redundant in the canteen or a special office set aside for consultations and they have all the authority of a firm selected by caring employers as the best to give advice.

Most people should bide their time before making binding decisions on what to do with their payoff. It may take them longer than they think to get another job.

Salesmen often do not want to give that time for fear of other advisers getting hold of the money first. Too often they want people to

invest all their money. The most lucrative products for the salesmen, unfortunately for the poor redundant workers, are long-term insurance plans, which are costly to get out of early if the money is needed.

Investment advisers should initially do little more than make sure the money is safely deposited and that guidance is given on how to cope with outgoings in the short term. It is impossible in the early days to say how long it will take to get a job, whether moving to another part of the country will be necessary, or whether the only way to get work will be to set up a business.

When life returns to some kind of normality, longer-term planning can be undertaken with the emphasis on getting the most out of any tax allowances or exemptions that can be used and safety must be the watchword. Many of those made redundant will not get another job



COMMENT

LINDSAY COOK
WEEKEND MONEY EDITOR

and have to think about how they can eke out their payoff. They cannot afford to risk any of it being lost.

Paying a financial adviser for his or her time is one way of ensuring that commission does not dominate the investment proposals made, especially if any commission rebated ends up in the salesman's pocket.

Those put into the wrong product at the wrong time with the wrong advice could count themselves lucky.

The investors' compensation scheme knows only too well that the suppliers of financial advice at such times do not always invest the money

where they claim they are going to. At least two of the firms for which the scheme is having to compensate investors offered financial advice to the newly redundant.

More than four years after the Financial Services Act came into force, there are still too many rogues, giving bad advice and disappearing with money from investors.

It is not good enough to rely on the name of a good insurance company, either, as tied agents are not always as scrupulously monitored as they should be. If the money ends up in the agent's bank account, it can lead

to a long wrangle before the insurance company pays up — if it does at all.

For most people made redundant, the cheque is the largest they have had to invest. It cannot be trusted to any jack the lad who turns up at the factory gate.

The delay of any mortgage cut until December helps the balance sheet and is a trick learned from the Cheltenham & Gloucester, another smart operator.

It has been improved upon by the Abbey. C&G has postponed its single cut to 9.75 per cent to December. Abbey announced its first cut and then added to it while postponing the first one.

The Abbey might have preferred a longer delay before the 1 per cent base rate cut to 8 per cent so that it could steal a march on most of its competitors for longer. Now they will all be on a pretty even footing from next week as far as rates offered to new borrowers are concerned.

The Abbey does not intend to report a fall in profits for a second six-month period if it can help it.

Recession takes its toll on marriage

■ Money worries can have a devastating effect on relationships and are increasingly blamed for the rising divorce rate. Banks and building societies now report that the problems can become worse after a split

By LINDSAY COOK, MONEY EDITOR

FINANCIAL problems are causing more couples to split up, according to statistics from Relate, the marriage guidance council. Banks, building societies and credit card companies report that the financial problems tend to get even worse when marriages end.

One marriage in three fails and the recession is taking its toll. Last year, 70,000 couples sought help for the first time from marriage guidance counsellors. Many blamed money troubles. Unemployment, redundancy and debts all had a "devastating" impact on families, the report said. This was published in the week that 30,000 miners heard that they were to lose their jobs and the jobless figures reached 2.84 million.

However, while financial institutions agree that money worries can cause families to split, they argue that the debts tend to increase immediately afterwards, as one wage often tries to pay for two households.

It is difficult to establish whether the financial problems preceded a breakup but they are often evident after it. The environment department published statistics this year showing that marital breakdown was a greater cause of homelessness in the first quarter of this year than mortgage arrears and repossession. Those applying for rehousing by local authorities gave breakdown of relationship

with partner in 16 per cent of cases as the reason for needing a new home.

Problems can arise when one partner and the children continue to live in the family home when the other partner is paying the mortgage. If there are financial strains, the payments on the home may not be a priority. If the payments are not made by the person living in the house, the first they might hear of arrears is when bailiffs arrive, in extreme cases. Most lenders check properties earlier.

The departure of the main breadwinner from a home can cause unexpected extra costs.

A wife who has not been named on the telephone, gas, electricity, or water rates accounts may find that she has to pay deposits of at least £100 to safeguard these services.

When it comes to current accounts and credit cards, those who have relied on joint accounts or supplementary cards on a main account can be in for a shock. Barclays, the largest credit card issuer, said



PENSION RIGHTS

BY THIS time next year, legislation may be on the statute books to give courts the power to split pension rights between divorced couples (Sara McConnell writes).

This would be a radical change as, at the moment, there is no provision for this although a spouse's pension is potentially one of his or her largest assets. In most cases, women are the losers in a divorce as they normally lose any right to a share in their former husband's pension.

A Pensions Management Institute working party is sift through a mass of written and oral proposals on how to split the pensions of divorced couples.

Anne Kelly, a partner at Rowe and Maw, the solicitor, and a member of the working party, said most proposals, including those from the National Association of Pension Funds, had favoured calculating the transfer value of the member's pension at the time of the divorce as would be done if he or she were moving jobs. The spouse, normally, although not necessarily, the wife, could then take a share of the transfer value and either put it into a company scheme or into a personal pension.

She also has the choice of holding an account in her own name in her husband's pension scheme.

Ron Spill, pensions controller at Legal & General, said: "If the couple are both earning, they should both have a pension. You can't rely on the guy always being there." If they then divorced, any of their own pension would be taken into account when calculating a pensions split.

Another way, the money would have to be taken as pension and would not be available as an immediate lump sum. A former wife relative or whoever was originally nominated.

Either way, the money would have to be taken as pension and would not be available as an immediate lump sum. A former wife relative or whoever was originally nominated.

For couples with no plans to remarry, the alternative might be a legal separation, as this would still leave a divorced spouse entitled to any widow's or widower's pension. Before taking this route, it is important to check the details of the pension

card company to retrieve his wife's supplementary card. He was unable to do so and she ran up £8,000 on the charge card and £5,000 on her credit card before a block could be put on the cards. It was an extreme case and the dentist was pursued all the way to the High Court for the money.

Barclays said that it sometimes wrote to the additional card user on behalf of the cardholder to ask for a card back. If this did not work, a block had to be put on, which meant the other card had to be replaced as well. Marital breakdown was a major cause of debt, a change of circumstances that needed careful handling by the two parties.

Lloyds has been analysing the shift from joint to single accounts. It asks for marital status on all loan and current account application forms but has not analysed whether divorced people are more likely to overdraw.

Making allowances for who has custody

TAX AND WILLS

ried couple's allowance for each tax month he is married.

In later years, both can claim their personal allowances, with the man claiming the married couple's allowance as well. Any surplus married couple's allowance can be transferred to his wife. From April next year, either partner can ask the Inland Revenue for half the married couple's allowance without the agreement of the other.

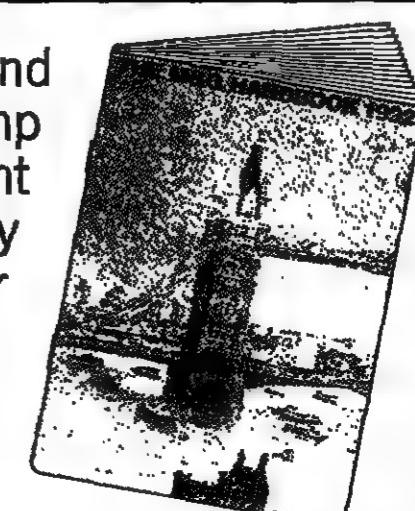
Divorcing couples should also make new wills, although any bequests made to former spouses will be cancelled as soon as the divorce becomes absolute. Richard Bark-Jones, partner in Morecroft, Dawson and Garnett, solicitors, said making new wills ensured that an ex-husband or wife did not receive everything if anything happened before the divorce was finalised.

Ex-wives or husbands who have been receiving maintenance payments from a former partner who then dies can appeal to the court for a "reasonable" settlement if the will leaves everything to a present partner.

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Legal separation can protect rights

LASTEST NEWS

INCREASING numbers of couples are divorcing later in life and this can create particular problems where pensions are concerned. The general trend towards earlier retirement means that couples in their fifties as well as those in their sixties can be affected (Anne Caborn writes).

According to David Salter, a spokesman for the Solicitors' Family Law Association and editor of *Pensions and Insurance on Family Breakdown*, published by Jordan, many of these couples have no plans to remarry, which may make divorce the wrong option.

According to *An Aging Population*, a report from the

scheme, Mr Salter said: "You have to look at individual schemes to see if they're talking about simply a widow, or if it will also include a widow who is legally separated. Not all schemes do."

If separation is not practicable and if there are not enough other assets to compensate fully a divorcing spouse for the loss of pension rights, one option might be to defer part of the lump sum settlement.

Again it is important to look at the individual pension. Mr Salter added: "In

certain cases, this is not

possible.

For example, with the armed forces there is a statutory prohibition against lump sum orders being made against such pensions."

The amount of the deferred payment has to be set at the time of the divorce. If the wife is reasonably well off in her own right, the other alternative is to defer the entire lump sum application until retirement, which means the amount doesn't have to be agreed upon until then.

The courts will not allow an indefinite deferral. "In broad principle, the courts have been prepared to defer the application for up to five years," Mr Salter said.

Retiring? It pays to take the lump sum

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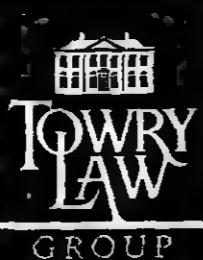
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CGT ALLOWANCE, SEPTEMBER 1992

The indexed rise for calculating the indexation allowance on assets disposed of in September 1992

Month purchased	1982	1983	1984	1985	1986	1987
January	—	0.887	0.805	0.528	0.446	0.394
February	—	0.880	0.599	0.516	0.443	0.388
March	0.755	0.577	0.594	0.502	0.441	0.386
April	0.720	0.554	0.573	0.471	0.427	0.369
May	0.708	0.647	0.557	0.464	0.425	0.368
June	0.703	0.643	0.563	0.461	0.425	0.368
July	0.703	0.634	0.565	0.464	0.430	0.369
August	0.702	0.627	0.550	0.460	0.425	0.365
September	0.703	0.620	0.547	0.461	0.418	0.361
October	0.695	0.514	0.537	0.458	0.416	0.355
November	0.686	0.608	0.533	0.453	0.404	0.348
December	0.690	0.804	0.534	0.451	0.398	0.349
	1988	1989	1990	1991	1992	
January	0.249	0.256	0.167	0.071	0.028	
February	0.244	0.247	0.180	0.065	0.023	
March	0.339	0.241	0.148	0.061	0.020	
April	0.318	0.220	0.114	0.047	0.004	
May	0.313	0.212	0.105	0.044	0.001	
June	0.308	0.208	0.100	0.040	0.001	
July	0.306	0.207	0.089	0.042	0.004	
August	0.292	0.204	0.088	0.040	0.004	
September	0.296	0.195	0.078	0.036	—	
October	0.273	0.186	0.070	0.032	—	
November	0.267	0.176	0.072	0.029	—	
December	0.264	0.173	0.073	0.027	—	

The RI month for disposals by individuals on or after April 6, 1985 (April 1, 1985 for companies) is the month in which the allowable expenditure was incurred, or March 1982 where the expenditure was incurred before that month.

Many policyholders still fail to make use of free legal and domestic helplines

PAULA YOUNG

Insurers on line to take the strain

By HELEN PRIDHAM

FIVE years after the 1987 hurricane, when emergency services were at a premium, householders are still failing to make the most of domestic and legal helplines provided 24 hours a day for insurance policyholders.

Over the past five years, they have been added to most contents and buildings policies. They put householders in touch with reliable tradesmen quickly and therefore avoid insurance companies having to pay out for expensive cowboys.

The legal advice can give help on any private legal matter, such as employment, consumer law, property disputes, matrimonial matters and motoring offences.

Most insurers use specialist companies to provide these services, such as Hambro Legal Protection, DAS and Mondial.

Brian Knight of Hambro, said: "Our solicitors can tell callers exactly where they stand legally and what their options are." Legal advice does not normally come so cheap, Ian Hawks, of Mondial Assistance, which provides advice lines for Prudential and Teachers Assurance, said: "Getting legal advice from a solicitor would normally cost you anything between £75 and £250 an hour."

Mr Knight estimates that

about four million insurance policyholders have access to his company's legal advice lines.

Among the companies with which Hambro is linked are Norwich Union, Legal & General, Eagle Star and Guardian Royal Exchange.

He said that, at present, employment problems are coming up more frequently. "At this time of year, we also traditionally get a large number of calls from people whose holidays did not turn out as they expected and want advice on what legal action they can take."

"People facing motor prosecutions ring up to find out what their rights are and what pleases they can make. In matrimonial cases, we have distressed dads ringing up at weekends because they have been denied access to their children, or people who want advice on past divorce arrangements."

Mr Knight admitted there are a "fair number" of calls regarding unsatisfactory insurance, but said there was no conflict of interest because there are European Community laws that forbid general

insurer from having any influence over a legal adviser.

Those who decide to take legal action as a result of advice given by a helpline, have to foot the legal bill themselves,

unless they have opted to pay an extra premium for legal expenses cover.

Commercial Union, for example, offers up to £25,000 of such cover for £8.50. Norwich Union charges £10 and Royal

charges £12.

DAS's household policy's free legal advice line, supplied by DAS, also provides legal expenses of up to £25,000 but only for the pursuit of personal injury claims.

Many household policies also offer access to domestic helplines. These are designed mainly to help policyholders find reliable local tradesmen quickly in an emergency.

Hambro and General Accident said their Helpline services were happy to recommend tradesmen even if there was no crisis, for example, if an upholsterer or chimney sweep was required.

For older people or those living alone, knowing the tradesmen have been visited by their insurer will help to take the worry out of letting strangers into their homes.

General Accident, which runs legal and general helplines in-house, said it received some unusual requests.

Alan Munro, of GA, said:

"We recently had a call from a policyholder stranded at Birmingham station who had all his money and credit cards stolen. One of the staff from our local branch went round with enough money for him to buy a rail ticket home."



'Sweeping' changes for Royal Bank customers

BY SARA MCCONNELL

ROYAL Bank of Scotland customers will be able to set the level of funds they keep in their current accounts and have the rest transferred automatically to savings accounts as part of the Balanced Banking service launched this week.

Unlike other "sweeping" services offered by clearing banks, however, Royal Bank customers can also choose a minimum below which the current account must not fall. If it does, funds from the savings balance will be transferred automatically to top up the balance.

Chris Jewell, Royal Bank's marketing senior director for personal banking services, said many customers who had day-to-day use money in the bank and savings in a building society stood to lose interest every time they needed to move money from one account to another.

He agreed the bank was trying to tempt the 60 per cent of its customers with building society accounts to switch to a Royal Bank savings account.

Customers using the service open a Gold cheque account, specifying the maximum and minimum balances. They also have to deposit at least £5,000 in a Gold deposit or Gold Ninety account. Any money over the agreed maximum balance in the Gold cheque account is "swept" into the account.

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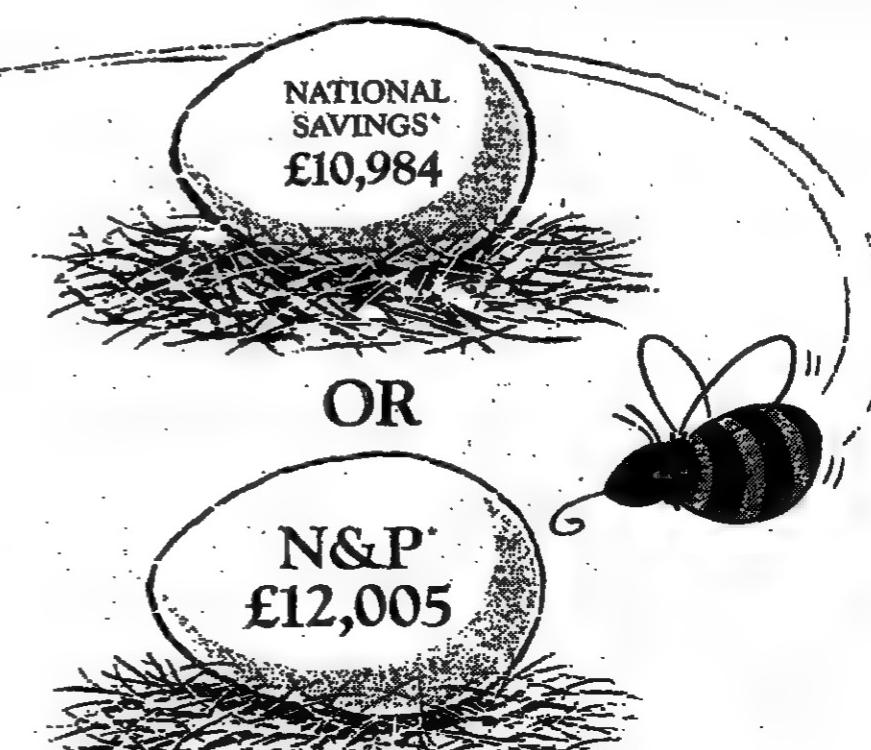
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Young workers stay in pocket

By LINDSAY COOK
MONEY EDITOR

CHILDREN are having to work harder for their pocket money, according to the Halifax Building Society. Its annual survey of savers aged under 11 shows that more than half work for their pocket money.

They also have more pressures on the money, with fewer able to save most of it and many rely on their parents for their day-to-day spending.

The survey of Little Xtra savers shows that pocket money has risen 8p to £1.48p, but 54 per cent of youngsters have to work for the money compared with 51 per cent a year ago. Average earnings are £1.36 and 12 per cent of the youngsters say that money earned from household jobs is their only source of income. While 55 per cent of girls earn money this way, slightly fewer boys do so.

Saving is still a top priority with 68 per cent, who save at least more than they spend. Last year, 71 per cent made this claim. The percentage of youngsters who spend all they receive has risen from 9 to 10 per cent.

There has been a slight fall in the number of children who receive pocket money, down from 80 per cent to 79 per cent. Most commonly, it comes from parents but almost half of the under fives get theirs from grandparents.

Youngsters in the North have suffered worst in the past year. They now receive an average of £1.56 compared with £1.80 last year. Those in Greater London had the largest increase, up 40p to £2.

Jim Birrell, chief executive of the Halifax, said: "Children, especially the older ones, continue to have very sensible views on money management. The fact that so many work to earn their pocket money should mean that they appreciate its value more. The positive attitude towards saving of our youngest customers is as encouraging as in previous years. We now have over one million Little Xtra Club members who, judging from the results of this survey, should grow up into financially aware adults."

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Pension fund members in dark over surpluses

By SARA MCCONNELL

LUCAS Industries, the aerospace company, this week paid £90 million of its pension fund surplus to shareholders as dividends. The legality of the transfer of £150 million a year ago that made this possible is now being challenged in the courts by Lucas pensioners.

Lucas's rival, British Aerospace, is expected to reveal in its next annual report that it has a huge pensions surplus. Last year's surplus was worth £200 million. This equals £2 for each BAE share, currently valued at 139p.

These cases focus attention on the question of who owns surpluses. Members of occupational pension schemes with surpluses have no legal right to a say in how these are used and could find it difficult even to find out whether there is a surplus, pensions experts said this week.

Increasingly, companies struggling to maintain dividends are using pension fund surpluses to prop up the company's finances. They are helped by legislation that says if pension fund assets exceed their liabilities by more than 5 per cent, they will lose their tax exempt status. A survey of big pension funds earlier this year suggested that 90 per cent of top companies had a surplus after the late 1980s boom.

Mike Brown, director of information services at the



Expecting a flood of submissions Don Hall, of Opas

National Association of Pension Funds, said if trustees of company pension schemes wanted to reduce surpluses they could declare a contribution holiday for themselves or for employees, improve benefits or add new benefits for scheme members or transfer

money to the company. If they chose the latter, they had to pay tax at 40 per cent.

What trustees are allowed to do with surpluses is normally set down in the trust deed. However, this can be changed. Exceptionally, Lucas's original trust deed forbade the trustees to make any payment to the company or make any amendment allowing transfers of funds to the company.

It obtained permission last year from the Occupational Pensions Board to use some of the surplus for itself. Scheme members do not have to be consulted about how it is used. Lucas argued it used £225

million of the £600 million surplus to improve benefits for members and pensioners. It also said members were consulted before the OPB was approached.

Sean Hand, head of the pensions unit at Cameron Markey Hewitt, solicitors, said: "There is no overriding rule of law requiring employers or trustees to consult beneficiaries about a proposed disposing of surplus." Employees had no right even to be told there is a surplus.

Every three years, there is an actuarial valuation of the scheme's assets, but this does not have to be distributed to members. If the actuary needs to revise the valuation meantime, members have to ask for the new valuation. A recent change in the reporting rules for company schemes means trustees have to ensure the scheme annual report and accounts are distributed. However, they still do not have to distribute the actuarial valuation.

The issue of who owns surpluses is being considered by the Pension Law Review Committee, which is accepting submissions from the industry and the public until December 15. Don Hall, chief executive of the Occupational Pensions Advisory Service, predicted that the committee would be "inundated" with submissions.

He said: "The issue is central to the whole basis on which final salary schemes work. The question is complicated by the decision that pensions are deferred pay but the other argument is that it is the benefits that are deferred pay not the surplus. It is important to make a distinction between members' rights and expectations."

Policy costs add to homeowners' woes

By PAUL NUKI

THE rising interest rates and falling investment returns homeowners have faced over the past few years is bad enough. Worse still is evidence published this week that mortgage endowment policy charges have also been rising.

Statistics compiled by Thesys Limited, financial analysts, show life assurance companies have increased charges significantly on endowment policies and personal pension plans over the past two years.

Average charges on a ten-year endowment policy - expressed as a reduction in the total return to the investor - is now almost 10 per cent higher than in 1990. Charges on 25-year endowments and personal pension policies have risen about 7 per cent in the same period.

Information on the effect of charges and expenses on investment performance may be provided to investors soon under proposed rules. But there will be no guide to how the costs compare with the industry average.

Short-term policies have been worst affected by recent bonus cuts. The figures show the average estimated reduc-

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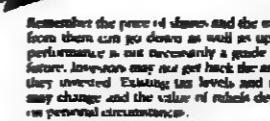
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LETTERS

Widows manage to allay pique

From Mr Peter Ward

Sir, May I add a footnote to R. J. Hobday's letter (October 3) on the failure of insurance companies to notify elderly policy holders that their policies have matured.

I had five company and private pensions due on my 65th birthday but only one society advised me. Scottish Widows. The others I was obliged to prompt.

Sadly, after such a good start, Scottish Widows did not commence payment for some six months, notwithstanding several calls and letters. Even-

ually, reflecting on the society's appealing advertisements and in desperation, I wrote "Keep cash, send widow".

That seemed to do the trick; perhaps the "widow" was already spoken for. Instead, and in compensation for the delay, Scottish Widows increased my pension very generously. Fortunately, I doubt I could have kept her in her accustomed style.

Yours faithfully,
PETER WARD,

Trio,
Carton Road,
South Godstone, Surrey.

Leasehold reform can avoid windfall gains

From P. A. C. Trower

Sir, Mrs Loder-Dyer (October 10) argues that long leaseholders will not make "windfall gains" if the Leasehold Reform Act is extended.

The last case I valued concerned a pretty Victorian cottage where a 50-year lease was granted in 1953 for a premium of £750 and a fixed ground rent of £5 pa. In 1991, under the valuation principle advocated by Mrs Loder-Dyer, the landlord received approximately £30,000 compensation, and the lessee then quickly sold the cottage for about £200,000. This was a windfall gain by anyone's standards.

If the 1967 Act is to be extended, then Parliament must amend the rules to take into account the following. First, who provided the building? It must be fair to have separate valuation rules

for bare ground leases (where the lessee built the dwelling) and leases where the landlord provided the dwelling and the leasehold.

Second, was an initial cash premium paid to the landlord? If not, the lease should be unenfranchiseable.

Third, have there been less see improvements? No reasonable landlord would object to compensating these.

The 1974 rules referred to do not help, as they largely ignore the above, and rely on identifying "Marriage Value", which itself depends partly on fixing the existing leasehold value.

This will change completely if leases become enfranchiseable — your article on 3rd October shows that values are changing already. To avoid a "vicious circle" valuation, Parliament should therefore base compensation on a clear ap-

portionment of a freehold vacant possession value at the date of enfranchisement. The exact apportionment in each case should depend on a number of factors, but should chiefly, in my opinion, bring about a much closer relationship as well as the items mentioned above. Only then will lessees be less open to the accusation of making windfall gains.

Yours faithfully,

P. A. C. TROWER,
Badgers Cottage,
Graffham,
Petworth,
West Sussex.

Putting the case for the arbitration scheme

From Mr Robert Morgan

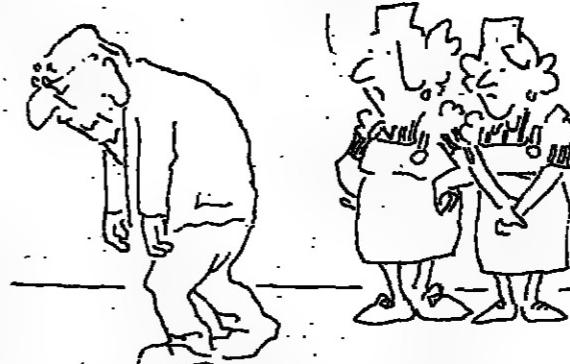
Sir, I write with reference to Sam McConnell's article "Income plan buyers may sue" (October 10).

What the users of the arbitration scheme for Fimbra must bear in mind is that the scheme is a legal procedure and the arbitrator must decide disputes by reference to the applicable law. Claimants must prepare their cases properly, for the arbitrator has no power to investigate facts. The arbitrator will be acutely conscious of this in order to produce an award that truly reflects the issues between the parties. The issues of fact and law raised by the case were not

suitable for a documents-only procedure because all such issues needed to be aired in an oral hearing. The claimants were offered the choice between an oral hearing and litigation, for which they may qualify for Legal Aid. The potential costs to the claimants were foremost in the arbitrator's mind. The costs that the claimants were stated to face of up to £10,000, are presumably the fees quoted to them by their legal or other advisers for a preliminary meeting, the arbitrator issued a termination order in mid-September 1992. Any delays that occurred were thus not his fault. For example, both the arbitrator and the respondent were willing to hold a preliminary meeting immediately. The claimant's advisers were unable to attend and this led to a delay of three months.

The arbitrator did not, as

He's had a Premium transplant.



Borrower beware

From Mrs M. Bedwell

Sir, I was under the impression that help was available for people falling behind with their mortgage repayments.

Through no fault of his own, a friend became unemployed. His wife was, and is, in reasonably paid employment. The husband has moved 200 miles away to find work. The house has been on the market at an attractive price for over a year. The couple have been paying what they can afford to the building society.

The society found this unacceptable and gave the option — pay arrears in full now or we repossess your home. There was no choice for this couple who have two children but to hand over the keys.

Just five days after they moved out, the building society had sold the house for the exact amount of the mortgage. Is it my imagination or is there a whiff of insider dealing here?

Yours faithfully,
MRS M. BEDWELL,
Stonesleigh, Stoke Prior,
Newbury, Berkshire.

GED

Unhealthy rise in health cover premiums

From Mr Gordon Connolly

Sir, Regarding Mr Archer's letter (October 3). Having been a subscriber to Bupa since 1972, I have been appalled over the last two years at the vast increase in premiums.

I believe these institutions are taking advantage of the income tax relief to increase their premiums thus nullifying the intentions of the Treasury. Pressure must be brought to

bear on these companies to reduce premiums to a realistic level. At 66, my premium in two years has increased from just over £100 per month before tax to over £200 per month after tax. This makes the published inflation figures look rather stupid.

Yours faithfully,

GORDON CONNOLLY,
Clare, Cold Ash, Prior,

Newbury, Berkshire.

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Bankers	6.05	6.05	5.00	25,000-50,000	1 min	071-228 1957
Lloyds	5.67	5.64	2,500-50,000	1 min	Local Branch	
Midland	5.20	5.20	2,500-50,000	1 min	Local Branch	
NatWest	5.30	5.30	2,500-50,000	1 min	081-529 6276	
West	5.77	5.77	10,000-50,000	2 min	0742 529665	
	5.91	5.91	4,750	25,000-50,000	1 min	071-728 1000
	6.44	6.44	4.50	25,000-50,000	3 min	071-728 1000
HIGH INTEREST CHEQUE ACCOUNTS						
Bank of Scotland HMC	8.73	8.69	4.71	2,000	none	031-442 7777
Barclays	4.18	4.18	3.88	2,000	none	0804 522891
Challenger	4.04	4.04	3.75	1,000	none	071 628 5549
Ulster	4.88	4.88	3.75	1,000	none	051 865 2076
Girobank	4.75	4.75	3.60	1,000	none	081 553 6212
Lloyds HICA	4.75	4.75	3.54	1,000	none	0742 529665
NatWest	4.16	4.16	3.34	2,000	none	0742 529665
	4.31	4.31	3.45	2,000	none	071 400 8000
BUILDING SOCIETIES						
Countrywide A/c:	4.13	4.13	3.80	200+	none	
First City — largest branches						
First City & West	7.25	7.25	5.75	2,000 min	Postal	
Challenger & G.	7.50	7.50	5.00	20,000 min	20 day	
Northumbrian	6.88	6.88	5.25	40,000 min	50 day	
Stephens	7.20	7.20	5.67	50,000 min	50 day	
Woolwich	7.25	7.25	5.67	50,000 min	1 year	
Cash/cheque accounts:						
Barclays	2.00	1.90	1.60	50 min		
Alliance & L&G	2.44	2.44	1.85	25 min		
Cash Plus	2.44	2.44	1.85	with larger		
First	1.88	1.88	1.50	1 min		
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From your Portfolio Plus card check your share price movements from this page only. Add them up to give you your total gain or loss if it matches what you have won outright or a share has daily prime money stated. If you win, follow the same procedure on the back of your card. Always keep the card available when claiming. Game rules appear on the back of your card.

No	Company	Group	Gains or Losses
1	Carlton Canners	Leisure	
2	Vox	Electrical	
3	Lloyds Abbey	Insurance	
4	Orange Free	Mining	
5	Wimpey G	Building/Rds	
6	Harris	Mining	
7	Diamond Corp	Drapery/Sts	
8	Scottish Power	Electricity	
9	Glass	Industrial	
10	Briston	Property	
11	McKeechne	Industrial	
12	Delta	Electrical	
13	Yorkshire Elec	Electricity	
14	Bowthorpe	Electrical	
15	Border TV	Leisure	
16	Kloof	Mining	
17	Hinch Whamp	Business Serv	
18	Sun Alliance	Insurance	
19	CNA	Industrial	
20	Tempo Gorth	Finance, Land	
21	TSB	Banks/Bisc	
22	Ram Bros	Banks/Bisc	
23	GRE	Insurance	
24	Tarmac	Building/Rds	
25	BT	Electrical	
26	Royal	Insurance	
27	LBMS Plc	Electrical	
28	Glyndwr	Industrial	
29	Unisys	Mining	
30	BET Ord	Business Serv	
31	Powell Duffys	Transport	
32	Eastern Elec	Electricity	
33	Body Shop	Drapery/Sts	
34	Trinity Ind	Newspaper/Pub	
35	Dalgety	Foods	
36	Zambia Copper	Mining	
37	Laird	Industrial	
38	Boos	Industrial	
39	Tibbs & Brins	Transport	
40	Abbey	Building/Rds	
41	Times Newspapers Ltd.	Total	

Please take into account any minus signs

£1,000 MATCH THE SHARES

If you have ticked off your eighth share in our Match The Shares game today, claim your prize by telephoning 0254 532712 between 10.00am and 3.30pm (see the Sunday Times for full details)

Five winners share the Portfolio Plus prize of £4,000. Mr M. Williams, High Helder, Kent; Mr G. Davies, Darlington; Mrs P. Harris, Havant, Hampshire; Mrs F. Joyce, Southampton and Mr R. Bhawal, Glasgow.

1992 High Low Company Price +/- div % P/E

BANKS, DISCOUNT, HP					
101	ABN-Amro NL	14	14	14	14
102	American Express	10	10	10	10
103	Barclays New	14	14	14	14
104	Bank of Ireland	14	14	14	14
105	Barclays	14	14	14	14
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THE TIMES UNIT TRUST INFORMATION SERVICE

Economic troubles mar Test baptism

The visit of India has lifted expectations and spirits in Harare before Zimbabwe's Test cricket debut. Richard Streeton reports

ZIMBABWE should tomorrow be celebrating an historic sporting occasion — its inaugural Test match — and further recognition as an emerging nation.

However, the cricket takes place against a tragic backdrop. The country is suffering from the worst drought on record and this, coupled with the world recession, has brought grave economic problems. Everything possible is being done but people, farm animals and wildlife continue to die of starvation in many rural areas.

President Robert Mugabe classified the worst-hit places — most of them in the south — as being "in a state of disaster" several months ago. The industries, industry and other sectors, including sport, have rallied to try to provide help. It could still be argued, though, that the numerous sponsorships helping the Zimbabwe Cricket Union (ZCU) to develop should be utilised for more vital matters.

Peter Chingoka, the ZCU's first black president, confirmed that neither the government, nor anyone else, has suggested that this should happen. The point was elaborated by Llew Hughes, chairman of the Harare Sports Club, which this weekend becomes the world's 68th Test match venue. The club has held several fund-raising events for the drought-stricken areas.

"It is not a case of cricketers having tunnel vision," Hughes said. "There has never been any talk of postponing the visits by India and New Zealand."

"It would be wrong to sit back in these unfortunate times. Life has to go on and Zimbabwe is a positive country and always has been since the early pioneering days."

Both the Harare ground and the one in Bulawayo, where New Zealand play a Test match next month, have their own boreholes and are carpeted with lush, green grass.

Within ten miles of Bulawayo, reliable sources say, are some of the worst affected areas, with farmlands reduced to deserts. In Harare and Bulawayo, the absence of rain for nine months has left gardens and road verges parched on the outskirts of the cities. Otherwise, though, the visitor to the capital is hardly aware of the drought.

Harare is so far virtually the only place in the country without water rationing. Spasmodic power cuts, which can

last eight or nine hours and which disrupt, among other things, air conditioning, lighting and telecommunications, bring a reminder to locals but the tourist hotels have their own generators. The rainy season should start in early November but nobody knows whether it will.

Meanwhile, the reservations

many had about Zimbabwean

playing strength when they were given test status still apply. India are rebuilding but must be expected to win comfortably. However, the Harare pitch looks its usual lifeless self and should help to ensure that the game does not end too prematurely.

As hoped, the ICC vote has re-created interest in cricket and the ZCU's unpaid officials have started an imaginative coaching scheme among black schoolchildren. Already 4,000 are participating. For years, cricket was mainly confined to the white minority — now reduced to 75,000 — but in the long term, the untapped playing talent among the ten million black population must be enormous.

A team played in the last

World Cup, apart from Grant Flower, who was injured. Without any domestic first-class fixtures, these part-time club cricketers — the majority aged around 30 or more and a mixture predominantly of farmers and solicitors — face a stiff challenge to their nerves and emotions.

Zimbabwe's most experienced cricketer is John Traicos, 43, the off-spinner, and he will set a world record for the longest span between Test match appearances.

It will be 22 years and 253 days since he played the last of his three Tests for South Africa. He comfortably beats the previous mark of 17 years 114 days set by Younis Ahmed, of Pakistan, between October 1969 and February 1987.

India expect Kapil Dev to play, in spite of needing stitches to a cut forehead after being hit at net practice earlier this week, and they are also likely to include both spinners, Venkatesh Raju (left-arm) and Anil Kumble (leg-break).

This is the only Test India play here before going on to South Africa for a four-match series and it launches the most intensive programme of international cricket yet. An unprecedented 29 Test matches and more than twice as many one-day games have been scheduled for 1992-3. The election of Zimbabwe last July as the ninth Test match country, with South Africa's return, is largely responsible for the heavy programme. New Zealand play two Tests here early next month.

Grant Flower (left), captain A. Flower, K. Amott, E. Brander, M. G. Bremner, D. Campbell, G. W. Flower, M. J. Jones, A. Pye, A. Shah, A. Trickey, J. Traicos, S. T. Turner, R. J. Shand, A. Jenkins, W. V. Farmer, G. D. P. Rossiter, S. H. Shand, S. T. Turner, M. Shama, S. V. Raju, A. R. Kumble, K. G. Mon, Y. Venkatesh, P. D. Reddy, K. Venkatesh, K. Venkatesh (Zimbabwe) will stand on stumps day.

ICC match referee: P. L. van der Merwe (South Africa).



Different class: Zafonic surges clear under Pat Eddery to land the Dewhurst Stakes at Newmarket yesterday

Stunning Zafonic cut to evens

By RICHARD EVANS

FOR once, a talking horse talked — and how. Zafonic justified every single word of praise at Newmarket yesterday — at the end of August — when demolishing a high-class field to win the Dewhurst Stakes.

The brilliance of the group

one victory was summed up

delightfully by Fahd Salman,

owner of third-placed Firm

Pledge, when he went over to

congratulate his father-in-

law, Khalid Abdullah, owner of

the winner. Asked what fin-

sidered second, Salman re-

sponded: "Daylight."

In a matter of six or seven

strides, Zafonic carried Pat

Eddery from the rear of the

11-strong field to the front.

Despite drifting slightly to

the right, he strode into a four-

length lead and was eased

near the line. Inchinar would

have won four out of ten

Dewhursts.

The hype for Zafonic looks

set to continue throughout

the winter months, not least

because the Chamele 4 racing

team, led by the irrepressible

John McCrindle, availed

themselves of £25,000-£3,000

after the Gone West colt won

the Prix de la Salamandre at

Longchamp a month ago.

Fabre, who can never be

accused of exaggeration, had

no hesitation in describing

Zafonic as the best two-year-

old to have passed through his

hands.

"This horse is so good you

can't really understand it,"

Fabre said. "His morning

work is unbelievable. A mile

will be his ideal trip. I can't

see him getting much fur-

louring out, she battled and stretched out really well under a fine ride from her young jockey.

Barry Hills said: "I have

always thought a lot of this

boy. All her work at home has

been good and I am sure she is top class."

Zafonic's owner, Dick Hollingsworth, is not keen on the early demands posed by the Guineas, so the filly will probably be aimed at the Musidora Stakes before going for the Oaks, for which she is 16-1 with Ladbrokes.

Mellote, a dream horse for

any owner or trainer, again

displayed his priceless acci-

eration when justifying a

jump in class from handicap

company to win the listed

Baring International Darley

Stakes.

Barry Hills, who saddled

Yawi (9-4) to win at Newmar-

ket, completed a 293-1 four-timer when Yildiz (8-13), Mrs

Barton (6-1) and Mark's Club

(7-1) all won at Catterick.

Sunrise, another Hills run-

ner, was beaten a head.

Barring an unforeseen set-

back, it is hard to see what

will get near to beating

Zafonic at Newmarket next

May.

Eddery said: "He's as good

as anything I've ridden and

he's shown it in his last two

races. I went past the couple

in front today and Zafonic

was still on the bridge. The

others were going flat out.

He's beautifully balanced, has

a good temperament and feels

like a very good horse."

Roger Charlton, trainer of the runner-up, was the first to

acknowledge the brilliance of

the winner. "He's in a differ-

ent class. Inchinar would

have won four out of ten

Dewhursts."

On a day for the racing

commissioner, Yawi confirmed

herself a top middle-distance

prospect for next season when

displaying resolution and

speed to win the Rockfield

Stakes.

Darryl Holland elected to

make the running and when

the Rainbow Quest filly was

challenged by Queen's View a

few furlongs from the finish

she responded with a

surge to win by a neck.

Barry Hills' filly, Sunrise,

had a good race and

should be a strong contender

for the next few weeks.

Pat Eddery, who has

had a good year, has

SPORT

SATURDAY OCTOBER 17 1992

Three-match ban for Tottenham forward

Durie suspended by commission for faking injury

By IAN ROSS

GORDON Durie, the Tottenham Hotspur and Scotland international football player, was yesterday banned for three matches after a Football Association disciplinary commission found him guilty of misconduct. Durie was judged to have feigned injury during the Premier League game against Coventry City at White Hart Lane on August 18.

The charge, the first of its kind in English professional football, underlines the growing sense of anxiety and unease felt by the sport's governing body over players who over-react to challenges in an attempt to win free-kicks and incriminate innocent opponents.

The ban is scheduled to begin on November 2 but Durie is expected to lodge a formal appeal to clear his name after becoming the first player in England to be officially labelled, and subsequently condemned as, a cheat. He left the FA headquarters at Lancaster Gate without comment after a hearing that lasted nearly four hours.

But Gordon Taylor, chief executive of the Professional Footballers' Association, who represented him, said: "We are very disappointed with the decision and Gordon is devastated by it. His reputation has been damaged and there will certainly be an appeal."

The charge arose after Durie had been tackled by the

Coventry defender, Andy Pearce. Durie reacted angrily to the challenge and after a confrontation, Durie suddenly fell backwards and lay motionless on the pitch. He was then booked by Dermot Gallagher, the referee, who reported to the FA that he considered the Scot had been feigning injury.

Video evidence of the incident failed to convince the commission that Durie was blameless and it also ordered him to pay costs of the hearing.

Taylor believes that yesterday's verdict could have far-reaching consequences for football.

"Our case was that the video showed evidence of contact between the two players and that the referee was not in a good position to judge," Taylor said. "The referee called on the physiotherapist and I am amazed he should have done that if he thought there was no contact. I feel it is impossible for referees to act as God-judge and jury on the question of an injury to a player."

"But the commission agreed with the referee and considered Gordon feigned injury. We strongly denied that. We all know things happen in football but if the FA was looking to make a point this was not the case to do it with, bearing in mind Gordon's reputation."

Several witnesses were called to support Durie including the Tottenham trainer,

Leeds-Rangers blackout

MILLIONS of football fans in southern England will be unable to watch the European Cup match between Leeds United and Rangers next Wednesday.

Thames and TVS have opted out of the Independent Television (ITV) deal to screen the second round, first leg clash live from Ibrox. They will screen highlights later in the evening.

It is the same in Scotland, where the game cannot be shown because Heart of Midlothian are playing Standard Liège in the Uefa Cup.

"The members are therefore satisfied Mr Durie is guilty of misconduct."

Clubs may be asked to cut ticket prices

By OUR SPORTS STAFF

LEADING football clubs may be asked to consider cutting their admission prices in an attempt to halt plummeting attendances. Ticket levels are to be examined as part of an investigation into spectator habits, which is being launched in conjunction with the Football Association.

"People have less money in their pockets during a recession and it is not getting any cheaper to watch football," Mike Foster, the Premier League secretary, said. "Some clubs, like Ipswich, have kept prices sensible but others have got to look at their pricing policy and set levels accordingly."

Coventry City have even gone a stage further. They will give away 2,000 tickets to the unemployed for their match against Chelsea at Highfield Road next Saturday.

"This is a gesture from the players and officials of the club to give our local unem-

Dave Butler, his coach, Doug Livermore, the club's chief executive, Terry Venables and the Premier League secretary, Mike Foster, who was watching the match.

Jonathan Crystal, a Tottenham director, who did not give evidence, said: "We consider the finding an unjustifiable slur on one of the country's leading players and find the decision perverse. The club hope his good name and reputation will be restored on appeal."

Durie's ban is likely to be held over if an appeal is lodged. Taylor added: "We are convinced Gordon does not deserve his reputation to be stained in this way."

Pearce was prepared to attend in support of Durie and Bobby Gould, the Coventry manager, was reluctant to release him so near a match day.

Pearce said last night: "I went into a tackle on Durie and, to be fair, it was a foul. He went down then leapt back up again and ran at me. He bounced off me and I didn't do a thing but he went down again as though injured."

The commission, comprising Geoff Thompson, the chairman, Leslie Kew and John Ryden, issued a statement which read: "The commission accept that according to film evidence, contact may well have occurred between Mr Durie and Mr Pearce."

"After taking into consideration the film evidence, the evidence of the match officials and the evidence called in support of Mr Durie, the members are of the opinion that contact between the two players did not justify Mr Durie falling to the ground as he did."

The referee was justified in stating in his report that G. Durie was cautioned for what I considered the feigning of an injury."

"The members are therefore satisfied Mr Durie is guilty of misconduct."

Pearce's crime was to play his

first ball, which led to him being disqualified under Rule 15-3 for playing the wrong ball and to the Korean team being virtually ruled out of the competition.

Tom Kite, the captain of the United States team that beat Korea 3-0 yesterday, said:

"O'Connor is 'bitely upset' as being criticised for reporting Park Nam-Sin for playing the wrong ball in their first round match and disturbed that the Americans have taken it on themselves to champion the Korean cause following allegations of sharp practice."

Couples claimed that the incident involving O'Connor, which happened on Thursday, was "not kosher". He said: "I'm not saying Christy pulled a fast one but I think he would be pretty upset if it had been called against him."

O'Connor accused Park after he completed the 17th hole, where he had hit a second ball from the tee after assuming that the first had gone out of bounds.

Officials agreed that Park was in breach of Rule 27-2, which states: "The player shall inform his opponent that he intends to play a provisional ball. If he fails to do so and plays another ball, such ball is not a provisional ball and becomes the ball in play."

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BOXING



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Saintly sacrifice of sexy male slugs

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WEEKEND

THE TIMES SATURDAY OCTOBER 17 1992

John Major: my view from the Bridge

Chelsea FC has been the prime minister's passion since he was 12. Here, exclusively, he recalls his boyhood heroes and the fickle swings of fortune

When I stand at the despatch box in the House of Commons, on the receiving end of a stream of colourful criticism, I realise how the Chelsea players must have felt in the darkest days of disappointment at Stamford Bridge, on the receiving end of many a sharp-tongued fan. And as I sit in my office with a row of red government boxes confronting me, I wonder how a prime minister can be expected to find time to be a football fan. I also think how tempting it is to leave affairs of state behind: even the dreariest of 0-0 draws on a wet afternoon in December can seem attractive in comparison with those red boxes.

If scepticism comes readily to politicians, it comes especially easy to a Chelsea supporter. After all, I have nearly 30 years behind me of high hopes at the start of the season, fading into disappointment with a string of frustrating results by January. It started well enough. My first season at the Bridge was the now legendary championship season of 1954-55. Chelsea were perhaps the obvious side for a boy from Brixton to follow. Yet my introduction to the sport came more slowly than for most. I was 12 years old before I finally made it to the terraces.

One of the first games I remember was against Wolves in April 1955, when we were close to sealing the championship. One of the Silet brothers, Peter, who used to play at left-back (his brother, John, was on the right), scored the only goal from a penalty, after Billy Wright had punched the ball over the bar. I remember he scored an unusually high number of goals for a full-back, mainly from the penalty spot or with sweetly struck free kicks. His penalty against Wolves was put past the International goalkeeper, Bert Williams, before a 75,000 crowd, one of the largest ever seen at the Bridge. Following that, there was no looking back and the championship was duly won.

I still vividly remember many of the great names of that period. Ted Drake had assembled a fine collection of players in the short period between his arrival at Stamford Bridge and the championship victory. Roy Bentley, by then coming to the end of his career with Chelsea, was, I recall, the club's leading scorer for eight consecutive seasons, a record no one has bettered. Then there was Jim Lewis, one of many amateur players who played for Chelsea down the years. He shared the left wing with Frank Blundstone, a bargain buy from Crewe Alexandra a couple of seasons before. Chick Thomson and Bill Robertson swapped the goalkeeper's jersey throughout that championship season. Finally, right-winger Eric Parsons recovered from a cartilage operation to play a vital role in that championship side. That season was his most prolific as a goalscorer, but he was also particularly adept at laying off balls for Roy Bentley to slot home. He was one of only two players to appear in every League game that season.

In many ways, there is a close similarity between football and politics. Abrupt swings of fortune are common in both, although there are, thank goodness, fewer teams to beat in politics. After our championship victory, we endured a succession of mediocre seasons and a rather unexpected drop, in 1962, into the second division. Bouncing back after just a year,

Chelsea then treated us to the best ten seasons in the club's history. There were some good years in the League, with third places in 1964-65 and 1969-70, but the period is memorable for Chelsea's Cup glory: League Cup winners in 1965; FA Cup runners-up in 1967 and winners in 1970; and, finally, success in the European Cup Winners Cup in 1971. There were times then when the words of Harold Macmillan seemed to echo for all us fans: it really did seem that we had "never had it so good". By the mid 1970s, however, we were on the side again and Chelsea's problems seemed to mirror the country's. As Britain turned to the International Monetary Fund to bail out our economy, so Chelsea had to go cap in hand to its bankers. The club was saved from bankruptcy in 1976 only by a 12-month moratorium with its creditors. The upturn in Chelsea's fortunes in the 1980s was, like Britain's recovery, long overdue.

The most memorable young player spotted and recruited by Ted Drake was, of course, Jimmy Greaves. I was at White Hart Lane to see his debut, at the age of 17, on the opening day of the 1957-58 season. Jimmy began his prolific goal-scoring career, that very day, in a 1-1 draw. He scored five goals in a match for Chelsea on three occasions. I was lucky enough to be there on one of them and to be entertained, over the years, by so many spectacular goals of his. Two uses enabled him constantly to



Team spirit personally committed to Chelsea, the PM encourages football enthusiasts nationwide

FOOTBALL LEAGUE - DIVISION I

	Home	Away	Goals	P	W	D	L	W	D	F	A	Pts
CHELSEA	37	9	4	5	8	8	4	75	54	46		
WOLVERHAMPTON	35	11	5	3	5	5	6	79	57	42		
Portsmouth	34	11	3	3	5	5	7	62	48	40		

The league table before Chelsea (under Ted Drake, far left) versus Wolves (captained by Billy Wright, left); the young Jimmy Greaves (top left)



acted as a breath of fresh air for fans in earlier days, so Docherty seemed to do just that for us young fans in the early 1960s. Propelled rather unexpectedly into the manager's office when Drake finally left, he not only had to learn the ropes fast; he also had to teach them to his young team. The promotion-winning side of 1962-63 is the youngest the club has ever fielded. Docherty's success relied in no small part on the partnership he built with Dave Sexton, whom he recruited almost immediately as coach. The genesis of the most famous Chelsea side in

its history grew from that pairing. Despite the successes of the late 1960s, things were not as settled as they might have been at Stamford Bridge. Docherty had always been an unpredictable genius and began increasingly to come to blows with the rest of the club management, and it came as no surprise to us when he resigned. Given Dave Sexton's close involvement in the building of the side, we were pleased to see him return. During much of this period I followed the club less carefully, mainly because I had been posted abroad by my employer. It could take some time for results to filter through to Nigeria from London.

One of the last games with Docherty in charge was the unsuccessful Cup final in 1967, when we were easily beaten by Tottenham Hotspur. It did not take long for Dave Sexton's organisational skills to pay off. In only his second full season in charge, Chelsea swept to the Cup final and, despite being the less favoured team, beat Leeds in a memorable Old Trafford replay. I clearly remember the strength of that particular side, with Bonetti protected by a fearsomely strong defence in the shape of Webb and McCreadie, Harris and Dempsey. Hollins and Houseman had to face

Tommy Docherty. "The prime minister is like a football manager — the only difference is he's got a guaranteed four-year contract. He can have three bad years and only one good year and still get re-elected. A soccer manager has three bad weeks and he's out. Your employers demand success overnight. In my opinion, whatever government is in power, they're no good. They promise you the moon and when they get in they do damn all. At least Chelsea were entertaining."

Anfield: it's the same with Liverpool. But they're changing, they've got to.

"Footballers are notoriously right-wing. I don't know any left-wingers, except the ones that play in that position, and there aren't too many of them these days. Kick or be kicked — that's the rule. All sport is based on cruelty and humiliation. There's no Mr Nice Guy in sport. Everyone takes the advantage if they can. And there's probably no Mr Nice Guy in politics either. We have to change everything, otherwise we'll all end up in Division Three — if we're not there already."

• Interview by Andy Martin

"Football is untouched by everything. Or thinks it is. Managers around the country are trying to work out why attendances are falling and they can't see what's staring them in the face — there's a recession going on and people can't afford to go. That's the obvious reason. Football has divorced itself from economics. In that sense, John Major may have made a good football manager."

"But the government is out of touch with reality. I don't know why he's pushing for Europe and defending the ERM when everything is against it. He's the

challenge of Billy Bremner and Johnny Giles, as intimidating a midfield as it was possible to find. But they diligently distributed the ball to Baldwin and Cooke on the wings or to Osgood and Hutchison up front.

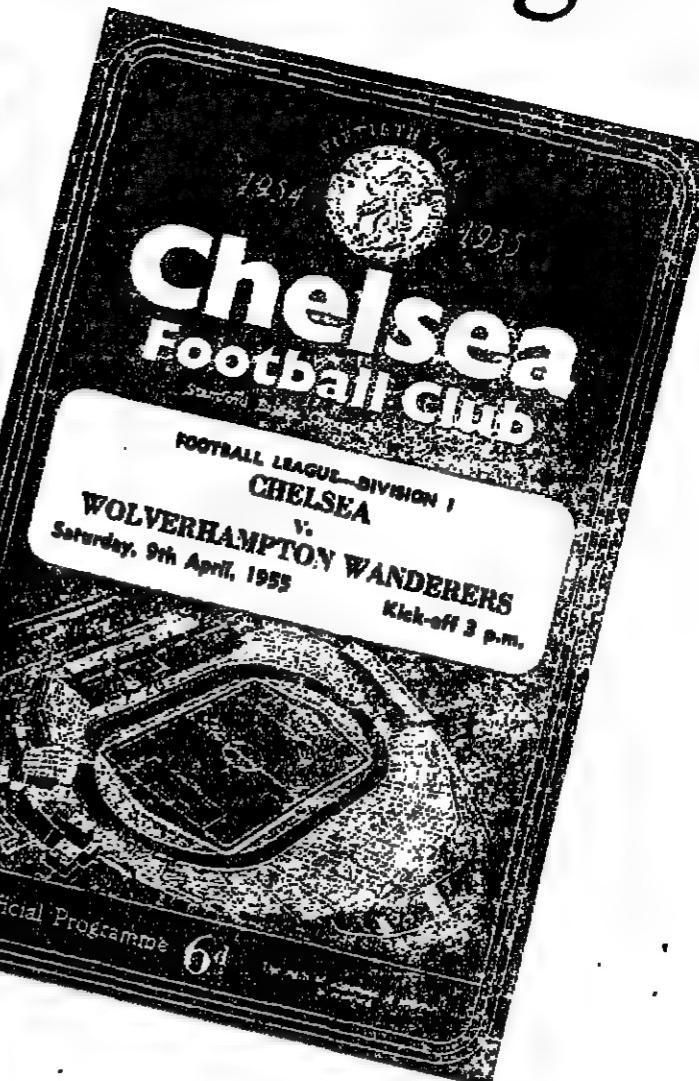
The following season saw our first period in European football. Our route to the Athens final of the Cup Winners' Cup included the defeat, in the semi-final, of Manchester City, who were in the competition by virtue of having won it the year before. The final against Real Madrid took place before the days of penalty shootouts: so, when the game was not won after 120 minutes, the team had to stay on in Athens to finish the job two days later.

Throughout many of those years, I inevitably concentrated on developing my political career. It was not necessarily an advantage to someone seeking election to a rural seat in East Anglia to be a follower of Chelsea. But I was fortunate to have no direct conflict between club and constituency. With Peterborough and Cambridge the only local sides, my support for Chelsea has rarely interfered with my constituency interests.

I have been able, then, as a Member of Parliament, to maintain my interest in Chelsea.

I was present at many of the games during the 1980s when their resurgence began. I particularly recall the promise shown in the 1983-84 season, when we gained promotion as champions for the first time.

Obviously, my ability to attend games has been constrained by the callings of government business.



Nevertheless, I still go as often as possible and have attended about half a dozen Chelsea games since becoming prime minister. Even on the busiest of government engagements, I make sure someone is on hand to pass me the results.

• Taken from *We'll Support You*. Furthermore, a collection of 24 essays by non-football writers in aid of the Child Poverty Action Group to be published by Duckworth on November 5 at £7.95. It will be available from most bookshops. Otherwise send a cheque made payable to the Child Poverty Action Group for £8.90 to Alcock, 89 Southgate Road, Sheffield S10 2NB.

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Just one night at The Berkeley and you'll be calling for an encore



Enjoy a quiet weekend in Knightsbridge, in the centre of London, in an elegant room at The Berkeley. Complete with a specially selected bottle of wine. This quiet hotel is minutes from Sloane Street and a short walk from Knightsbridge and Piccadilly. Even though our distinguished guests prefer us not to make a noise about its virtues, we are offering you a Friday or Saturday night, together with theatre tickets to the show of your choice, for £210 for two.

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WHAT'S ON

SATURDAY OCTOBER 17 1992

FILM

LES AMANTS DU PONT NEUF (18): Leos Carax's hymn to Paris and a punk bum's love for a young artist going blind. Terrible in spouts, and a real movie move. Denis Lavant, Juliette Binoche. Lumière (071-836 6691).

BEAUTY AND THE BEAST (U): Sumptuous Disney cartoon fairytale, blessed with skilled animation and attractive Broadway-style songs. Directors, Gary Trousdale, Kirk Wise. Camden Parkway (071-267 7034). MGM Chelsea (071-352 5096). MGM Oxford Street (071-636 0310). Odysseus (Kensington (0426 914666); Marble Arch (0426 914501); West End (0426 914501)). Screen on Baker Street (071-935 2772). UCI Whiteleys (071-792 3332).



Glitter: Kruger-Taylor and Hannan, *Strictly Ballroom*

GAS FOOD LODGING (15): Emotional lives of a waitress and two daughters in New Mexico. Good-looking, well acted. Farisa Balk, Brooke Adams, Jane Sylve. Director, Alison Lander. Metro (071-437 0757). Renoir (071-337 8402).

LILITH (18): Occupational therapist Warren Beatty falls for Jean Seberg's mental patient. Splendid revival of Robert Rossen's beautiful last film (1964). ICA (071-930 3647).

LOVERS (18): In Franco's Spain, Vicentia Abri derails her lodger's intended marriage. Excellent tale of mad love, expertly directed by Vicente Aranda. MGM Piccadilly (071-437 3561). Minima (071-235 4225).

OTHELLO (U): Orson Welles' dynamic version of Shakespeare's tragedy now restored. Welles as Othello; dazzling images galore. Curzon West End (071-439 4805).

SPOTSWOOD (15): Gentle, pleasing Australian comedy, with Anthony Hopkins as an efficiency expert battling with an outdated moccasin factory. Director, Mark Joffe. Odense Kensington (0426 914666). Plaza (071-497 9999).

STRICTLY BALLROOM (PG): One dancer's fight to defy the rules of the Australian Ballroom Dancing Federation. Brilliant, intoxicating debut by director Baz Luhrmann. With Paul Mercurio and Tara Morice. Co-stars Sonia Kruger-Taylor and John Hannan. MGM Chelsea (071-352 5096).

MGM Oxford Street (071-636 0310). Odysseus: Kensington (0426 914666); Marble Arch (0426 914501); West End (0426 914501). Screen on Baker Street (071-935 2772). UCI Whiteleys (071-792 3332).

THUNDERHEART (15): FBI agent Val Kilmer recovers his Indian heritage in South Dakota. Engrossing thriller from director Michael Apted.

MGM Fathom Island (071-370 2636). MGM Haymarket (071-839 1527). MGM Tooting Court Road (071-636 6149).

UNFORGIVEN (15): Clint Eastwood's mellowed gunman is forced to resurrect his lethal skills. Marvelously resonant, reflective Western. Camden Plaza (071-485 2443). Empire (071-497 9999). MGM Fulham Road (071-370 6336).

MGM Haymarket (071-839 1527). MGM Oxford Street (071-436 0310). MGM Trocadero (071-434 0311). Notting Hill Coronet (071-727 6709). UCI Whiteleys (071-792 3332).

WHITE MEN CAN'T JUMP (15): Wesley Snipes and Woody Harrelson as basketballers in Los Angeles. Fresh, funny Americana from Ron Shelton. Camden Parkway (071-267 7034). MGM Chelsea (071-352 5096). MGM Oxford Street (071-636 0310). Odysseus (Kensington (0426 914666); Plaza (071-497 9999)). Screen on the Green (071-226 3520). UCI Whiteleys (071-792 3332).

WITHTHE HEIGHTS (U): Orthodox trudge through Bronx country with a mischievous Cathy (Juliette Binoche) and a variable Heathcliff (Ralph Fiennes). Just, the occasional spark. Director, Peter Kosminsky. Empire (071-497 9999). MGM Fulham Road (071-370 2636). MGM Shaftesbury Avenue (071-836 6279/379 7025). UCI Whiteleys (071-792 3332).

RADIO TIMES: Tony Slattery as a wartime radio star whose show is heading for disaster. New musical built around Noel Gay's songs.

QUEEN'S: Shaftesbury Avenue, W1 (071-495 5040). Mon-Fri, 7.30pm, Sat, 8pm, mat 7pm; then Mon-Fri, 8pm, Sat, 8.30pm, mat Tues, 8pm, Sat, 9.30pm.

THE RISE AND FALL OF LITTLE VOICE: Terrible performance by Alison Steadman as the raucous slob in Jim Cartwright's play. Aldwych, Aldwych, WC2 (071-836 6404). Mon-Sat, 8pm, mat Sat, 4.30pm.

ARTISTS AND ADMIRERS: Sylvie Le Touze plays a Russian actress spurning a lecherous prince (Christopher Benjamin) in Ostrovsky's affectionate comedy — a new staging by the Royal Shakespeare Company.

The Pit, Barbican Centre, Silk Street, EC2 (071-638 8891). Wed, Thurs, 7.15pm.

ASSASSINS: A new Sondheim musical on the unlikely theme of men who killed US Presidents. Sam Mendes's production re-opens this snug studio theatre.

BIRMINGHAM: The Rep takes to the road with its tenth Community Tour: Jonathan Oliver in *'The Devil's Only Sleeping'*. Did the then just released from prison come to mind? or is the explanation more sinister? Sellindge College, Chelmsley Wood, Wed, Sixth Form College, Stoke-on-Trent, Thurs. Further information from Birmingham Rep box office: 021-236 4455.

DRAGON: Christmas hits already! Ulitz, Spitting Image and a reggae band work their magic on Yvonne Swann's fairytale with claws.

National (Olivier), South Bank, SE1 (071-928 2252). Preview from Thurs, 7.15pm; opens Nov 6, 7.15pm; then in repertoire, with morning and afternoon performances.

GLASGOW: Vivid and powerful revival by Philip Prowse of Tennessee Williams's *'Sweet Bird of Youth'*. Citizens, Gorbals (041-429 0022). Tues-Sun, 7.30pm.

LEEDS: Gwen Taylor and Brian Protheroe in Albee's roller-coaster drama of emotional games: *'Who's Afraid of Virginia Woolf'*. Quarry, West Yorkshire Playhouse (0532 442111). Preview Thurs, Fri, 7.30pm; Opens next Sat, 8pm.

MANCHESTER: National Theatre's BP-sponsored tour of *'Billy Liar'* (director Tim Supple) here for one week. Next dates: Coventry, Burton-upon-Trent, Chorley, Oxford Road (061-983 9833). Tues-Sat, 7.30pm.

MANCHESTER: Major production of James Baldwin's harrowing drama of racial murder: *'Blues for Mister Charlie'*. With Nicholas Le Prevost. Royal Exchange, St Ann's Square (061-933 9833). Preview Wed, 7.30pm; opens Thurs, 7.30pm; then Mon-Thurs, 7.30pm; Fri, Sat, 8pm, mats Wed, 2.30pm, Sat, 4pm.

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THE SAW DOCTORS: This Irish band, a huge success in their home country, bring their boisterous blend of rock and folk across the water for their culminating at the Brodway Academy next Saturday.

Academy, Manchester (061-275 2930), today, 7.30pm. Rock City, Nottingham (0604 412500), Fri, 7.30pm.

THE SWINGER: This Irish band, a huge success in their home country, bring their boisterous blend of rock and folk across the water for their culminating at the Brodway Academy next Saturday.

Academy, Manchester (061-275 2930), today, 7.30pm. Rock City, Nottingham (0604 412500), Fri, 7.30pm.

THE SWAGGER PORTRAIT: One thing that Ramsay's portraits seldom do is swagger, hence perhaps his relative neglect in the age of Duvese, when American patricians in particular liked something obviously impressive. There has never until recently been any lack in British painting of portraiture ready to supply that particular need.

Van Dyck was the founding father; his followers in the tradition range from Ley and Kneller to Sargent and Augustus John. These pictures are full of pride in position and possession.

Tate Gallery, Millbank, SW1 (071-821 1513). Mon-Sat 10am-5pm, Sun 2-6pm, until Jan 10, 1993.

RICHARD SERINA CANVAS

DRAWINGS: The sculptor has been making "canvases drawings" for 20 years in the margins of his major sculptural work. They are made out of Belgian linen, covered with thick layers of black paintstik, and cut to shape as required on site.

This show constitutes Britain's first opportunity to see this side of Serina's work.

Serpentine Gallery, Kensington Gardens, London W2 (071-402 5075). Daily, 10am-5pm, until Nov 15.

BEATRICE HARRISON

CENTENARY CONCERT: The birth

of the pioneering British cellist is celebrated 100 years to the day.

Harrison was not only the first

British cellist to achieve an

international reputation, but

also to appear at Carnegie Hall and

had the eccentricity of playing

duets with the nightingales in her

Surrey garden.

Wigmore Hall, Wigmore Street, London W1 (071-935 2141), Dec 9.

VIDEO

CAPE FEAR (CIC, 18):

Demoniacal ex-con Robert De Niro

terrifies Nick Nolte and family.

Martin Scorsese's ferocious remake

of a classic revenge thriller; a

fine black comedy until excess sets

in. With Jessica Lange, Juliette

Leigh. Lewis 1991.

MANCES WITH WOLVES

(PolyGram, 15): Indians, buffalo,

sweeping landscapes, plus a

star-director who takes himself too

seriously. The four-hour version

of Kevin Costner's epic, released in a

package with a commemorative book and a soundtrack CD. Only

available from W.H. Smith.

JANE CAMPION SHORTS

(Connisseur, 15): *'Passionate*

Moments, *A Girl's Own Story*

and *Peel*: three typically off-kilter

shorts from the early Eighties by the acclaimed director of *An Angel at My Table*.

SUNDAY IN THE COUNTRY

(Artificial Eye, 18): An elderly painter's

family comes to visit one

summer Sunday in 1912. Gallic

pretentious gaiety, but death and

decay are never far behind the

sunlight. Subtle pleasures from

director Bertrand Tavernier; with Louis Ducreux, Sabine Azema.

1984.

Film: Geoff Brown:

Theatre: Jeremy Kingston:

Classical Music: Opera: Ian

Brusiloff; Rock, Jazz: Stephenie

Osborne; Dance: Debra

Crane: Exhibitions: John

Russell Taylor; Video: Geoff

Brown; Bookings: Karl Knight;

Salerooms: Huon Mallalieu



Pride of place: Pompeo Batoni's painting of Lord Haddo at 'The Swagger Portrait'

SALEROOMS

TUESDAY AND WEDNESDAY:

Sotheby's Book and Map sale opens with a section of Bond certificates, a market that has been out of fashion since the boom a decade ago.

There are also strong sections of art reference and travel, 10.30am and 2pm each day.

Sotheby's, New Bond Street, W1 (071-933 8080).

TUESDAY TO THURSDAY:

Aficionados of country house

content sales will have their

work cut out this week, especially on

deciding which to attend on

Tuesday, from 10.30am that day.

Christie's Sotheby will be in

Colliers Elm as perhaps the

grandest, Stackland House

County Meath, while Anderson &

Garland will be dispersing the

principal contents of Elson Tower

near Otterburn in

Northumberland. At 11am Phillips

join in with the residual contents

of

You are what you eat: dried gecko, anyone?

A key element in the success of any restaurant is the person who meets you at the door. At Hong Kong's Yat Chau restaurant, Peng Min-Kwan is more solicitous than most. Before you go to your table, he not only inquires after your health but also takes your pulse, inspects your eyes, nose and ears, and will even measure your blood pressure or ask you to stick your tongue out at him. Then he recommends what you should eat from the 200 dishes on the menu.

With his kindly bedside manner, twinkling eyes and white laboratory coat, he looks more like a doctor than a maître d'. Which is what he is. Dr Peng is head doctor of Chinese herbal medicine at the territory's first health restaurant.

Swollen neck glands? Try number 127: soup made from chicken and sea horse.

Recovering from illness? Number 13 should do the trick: double-boiled pigeon with Chinese caterpillar fungus and fish maw.

Back pains? Treat yourself to a glass of 192: three-penis wine.

Dr Peng says: "Chinese herbal medicine has existed for as long as China's 5,000 years of civilisation. It makes sense to combine two great streams of Cantonese thought — eating and concern for health. Eating is a pleasure, and there is every good reason why it should also be both healthy and even medicinal."

Most of the Yat Chau's clientele are Chinese diners who pay about £20 per head in the summer, double in winter when game is in season. One-off requests for dishes with expensive ingredients — rare ginseng, or red bird's nest for example — bump up the prices considerably.

Japanese visitors take the restaurant seriously, and there are increasing numbers of western gweilos who sample the £10 lunch-time tourist menu. Not every item is as exotic as sea horse or gastrida tuber. There are numerous dishes more suited to western palates such as fried shrimps with chives ("increases virility and sexual potency") and duck with cloves and cinna-

Alasdair Riley books a table for lunch and a baldness cure at a Hong Kong restaurant serving up health on a plate

mon ("good for weakness and deficiency of the spleen").

In fact, it is quite possible to treat the Yat Chau as a perfectly ordinary Chinese restaurant with an interesting menu. No-one is obliged to consult Dr Peng, or any one of his colleagues who mingle with the waiters. The menu carefully explains the ingredients and medicinal effects of each dish in both Cantonese and English.

However Chan Siu Lun, a direc-

"To finish, we will have a steamed bun with a red paste filling which activates the spleen"

balding process and keeps grey hair at bay.

In deference to my host, however,

I refrain from asking for a glass of

Number 196, gastrida tuber wine,

which dispels wind and cures

numbness of the limbs.

The Yat Chau is a first-floor

restaurant in Hong Kong's Central

district, sharing an entrance with the Yat Chau Chinese herbal

medicine shop and clinic on the

ground floor.

As well as providing ingredients for the kitchens upstairs, it is where Dr Peng's colleagues diagnose patients, dispense ancient wisdom and present combinations of herbal cures from hundreds of jars and drawers which line the walls.

At the bottom of the range are dried gecko lizards at £3.80 per 37.5g, and American farmed ginseng at £4.50 per 37.5g; at

the top, wild Chinese ginseng at a price high enough to make anyone ill: £6.500 per 37.5g.

In between, at the same weight, come ground deer penis at £60 and blood-tinted bird's nest, made from the saliva of the sea swallow, at £80.

Just as therapies such as acupuncture and reflexology, previously relegated to the fringe of established medicine, are gaining ground in the mainstream, so western science is beginning to take Chinese herbal medicine seriously. In laboratories around the world, scientists are studying more than 5,000 herbs, roots and plants from the Chinese folk medicine chest, most of which have never been chemically analysed before.

With the meal we drink ginseng tea and, in deference to myself, wine made from fleece flower root, walnut kernel and angelica root which, it is claimed, slows down the

stomach. Then chicken soup with prawn and seahorse. Good for the kidneys. Followed by sautéed prawns with lily flower bulbs to keep us young and pretty.

"After that we shall have steamed chicken with ginseng and mushrooms which, apart from tasting wonderful, is ideal for the lungs. Then fried rice with walnuts and a red seed from an Inner Mongolian fruit which is good for the eyes. To finish, a steamed bun with a red paste filling which activates the spleen."

With the meal we drink ginseng tea and, in deference to myself, wine made from fleece flower root, walnut kernel and angelica root which, it is claimed, slows down the

"It took me five years of hard study before I was allowed to practise herbal medicine," Dr Peng says. "It seems quite natural to me that beneficial herbal ingredients should be part of a healthy diet. Some dishes at the Yat Chau are designed as specific cures for certain illnesses, others promote better health in general, replenish energy, nourish vital essences, help you lose weight or keep your youthful complexion."

"No-one is suggesting, though, that you can come to the Yat Chau restaurant once and be cured of whatever is wrong with you after one meal. We have regular customers who come several times a month, but we also have people who are curious who come once, just for the food and not for a cure. If they want, they can take away a booklet which tells them how to cook our dishes at home."

Before we pick up our chopsticks, Dr Peng wishes us "yum sing" — good health. And when he suggests eating duck, don't call him the local quack. He's heard it all before from the gweilos who have been patronising his restaurant since it opened last year.

He himself provides an almost perfect recommendation for his restaurant. He has been practising Chinese herbal medicine for almost 30 years but still has the complexion of a 20-year-old. And three-penis wine has ensured a fine thatch of glossy black hair.

● *The Yat Chau Health Restaurant is on the first floor of the Yat Chau Building, 262 Des Voeux Road, Central, Hong Kong (545 8688).*

● *Chi Clinic, Riverbank House, Putney Bridge Approach, London SW6 4JD (071-371 9717).*

● *Dr Ke (081-741 9264).*

● *Louis Healing Centre, 129 Queen's Crescent, London NW5 4HE (071-284 4614).*

● *The Chinese Medical Centre, Manvers Chambers, Manvers Street, Bath, Avon (0225 483393).*

● *Hong Yuan Chinese Herbal Shop, 22 Rupert Street, London W1.*



Dishes of the day: Dr Peng Min-Kwan displays some of the contents of his herbal medicines chest

NOILLY PRAT

TAKE A BOTTLE HOME
AND MAKE A MEAL OF IT.



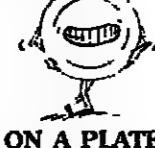
Piquant Noilly Sauce

Recipe devised by Fiona Neilson-Turner Marie School of Cookery

1½ tablespoons caster sugar
3 tablespoons good sherry vinegar
5 tablespoons Noilly Prat
5 fl oz of chicken or fish stock
4 tablespoons double cream
½ oz unsalted butter

Melt the sugar in a small heavy pan. Cook over a medium heat until the sugar is golden brown. Add vinegar and reduce by boiling for 1 minute. Add the Noilly Prat and reduce by half. Add the stock, bring to the boil and reduce by half. Add cream and simmer until it is sauce like in consistency. Serve with a flat white fish such as plaice or sole. (Serves 4)

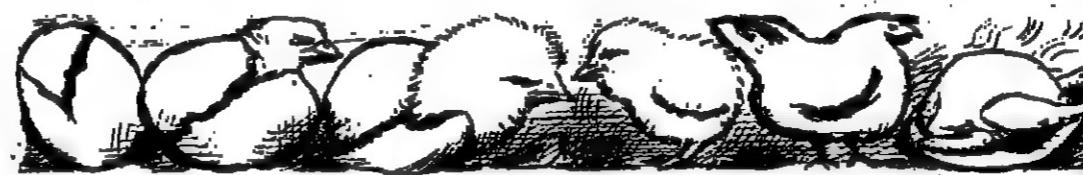
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Helping to unscramble the moral egg code



FOOD SPY

dimension and many of the hens perch high up. Even so, when I walked through a hen barn not long ago it was like going down Oxford Street two days before Christmas.

The Vegetarian Society does not recognise the barn egg as an ethical food. "We regard the system as intensive animal-keeping," says Chris Olivant of the society. "We can only endorse free-range eggs."

There is no difference between free-range and battery eggs when it comes to nutrition, and no discernible difference in taste.

The whole free-range vs battery argument was rehearsed recently in *The Archers*. In the microcosm of Ambridge the village debated

whether Martha's shop should only sell battery eggs. Cathy Perks arranged a blind tasting session in The Bull and no-one could tell the difference between battery and free-range. That seems to be true outside Ambridge, too.

There is sometimes a difference in look between a cooked battery egg and a free-range one. The yolk of the free-range egg is often paler. Beta-carotene, a natural derivative of vitamin A and the stuff that makes carrots carrot, determines the colour of the yolk. But although beta-carotene is useful to the egg — it helps to stop it going mouldy inside its shell — the amount of it in a yolk makes no difference to us, says Catherine Collins of the British Dietetic Association.

She also says that within reason it matters little how many eggs you eat. There are still GPs who advise

you not to eat more than three a week in case your cholesterol level soars, but that is no longer the standard medical view. "The medical journals reported the case of a man in New England who ate 80 eggs a day and had a perfectly normal cholesterol level," Miss Collins says, adding rather unnecessarily: "Of course, he has a psychiatric history."

The salmonella war that brought down Edwina Currie, then junior health minister, are long since over, although you are still advised not to eat undercooked eggs or to make your own mayonnaise with raw yolks.

Egg consumption has returned to its pre-salmonella scare levels — something under two-and-a-half eggs per person per week, almost all of them brown, because we don't like naked white eggs, and most in the middle sizes 2 and 3.

The ethical argument still goes on, though. Justice for hens or cheap protein for the poor?

You pays your money and you takes your moral stance.

FRANK JEFFERY

Keep your spirits up

As gin loses some of its alcohol kick,

Jane MacQuitty considers the alternatives

GORDON'S mean move of demoting its gin from a flat-out 40 per cent alcohol to a wishy-washy 37.5 per cent, and charging the same price for it, has not been popular with drinkers or the trade.

A 2.5 per cent drop in gin's alcohol content may not seem much, but it makes a difference to taste and that all-important alcoholic "lift" spirit drinkers look forward to at the end of a working day. The alcohol present in spirits serves the same purpose as it does in wine, highlighting the flavour and delivering body, backbone and a useful alcoholic kick. Lower the alcoholic content of wine or spirits, and you immediately lower the impact that drink makes on your tastebuds.

Sadly for white spirit drinkers, Gordon's is the giant of the gin trade, with at least half of the market, which means that almost every other gin firm will follow its lead. Already most own-label gins have dropped to 37.5 per cent, as has Sir Robert Burnett's mandarin and angelica-scented White Satin, and Gilbey's. So far only Beefeater, with its distinctive orange peel fla-

vour, is standing firm at 40 per cent alcohol.

According to Gordon's, the extra 54.16 a case profit it makes at the lower alcohol level will be used to shore up the ailing gin business in particular, to promote gin to younger drinkers in their late twenties.

Perceived today as slightly dull and old-fashioned, gin is none the less a classic pungent juniper-flavoured white spirit that is here to stay. The best gins start with maize, not molasses, and these 100 per cent grain spirits usually state this on the label and taste smoother and finer than their cane competitors.

The finest gins are also made by distilling the spirit through the dried botanicals or flavouring elements, such as juniper, coriander, angelica, lemon and orange peel. Liqueur gins just have the required essence added to the neutral base spirit.

With spirit sales falling, the white spirit men are relieved



however that the 8 per cent drop in gin and white rum purchases is not as bad as blended Scotch, down 12 per cent last year. Only vodka, down by just 4 per cent in 1991, a year in which its sales overtook gin for the first time, appears to be riding the recession.

Despite these decreases, white spirits have for some time been growing at the expense of brown (predominantly whisky). The finest grain versions have nothing in common with the surgical spirit flavours and harsh, fiery pal-

Best buys

• Vladivar Gold 100% Proof (£7.95) 100% Pure Grain Harrods £17.75 Easily the best of the British-born "Russian" vodkas. This high proof vodka has lovely, smoky scent and a deep, smooth, yet punchy palate.

• Stolichnaya Russian Vodka (40%) Asda £11.55, Tesco, Safeway and Davisons £11.59 Still the standard by which all great vodkas should be judged: soft, creamy, smoky finesse and flavour. 100% pure grain.

• Tanqueray Special Dry Export (47.3%) Sainsbury's £14.19, Tesco £14.29, Majestic Wine Warehouses £14.95 Made by the same folks as Gordon's Gin, this 100 per cent grain gin offers a solid, powerful, peppery gin base that is not so sweet or obvious as its more famous juniper and angelica-scented green sister.

• Pirassununga 51 Brazilian Cachaça (40%) Tesco £9.99 Not everyone will share my liking for this strange, hefty, oily white spirit, whose burnt, earthy flavours go down best with lots of crushed ice and the juice of a whole lime.

ates of those Russian-sounding but British-made vodkas, often distilled from molasses rather than a superior grain like rye or barley.

Although vodka can be made from almost anything, including potatoes, first-class 100 per cent grain vodka does not burn your mouth but delivers sweet, smooth, creamy, grain flavours whose fresh, yeasty-smoky style comes through as clearly on the nose as on the palate.

White rum, due to its sugar cane and molasses base, is unlikely ever seriously to challenge the superior white spirits of gin and vodka made from grain. However, the clean, light, sweet, fruity flavours of white rum, such as the 37.5 per cent Bacardi, go down well with undemanding drinkers who want alcohol in a simple, easy drinking form.

Tequila, made in Mexico, mostly from the pineapple-shaped heart of the large, spiky, blue agave plant, has not had the success here, so far, that the spirit trade anticipated. Almost all of this powerful, pungent, 38 per cent earthy white spirit sold here probably goes into a margarita.

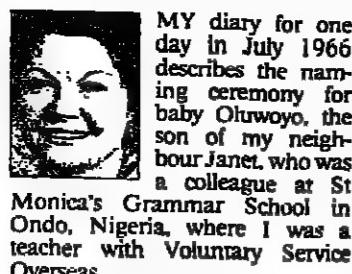
My vote for a new, strange and worth-experiencing-once white spirit goes to Brazil's cachaça, made from sugar cane. I first tasted this unrefined 40 per cent white spirit in a Latin-American bar in New York. Its rocket fuel, cheesy, wet cane taste grows on you — especially if you drink it as I did, mixed with the juice of a whole lime and served over lots of crushed ice. Known as a Caipirinha, the Brazilians drink vast quantities of this mixture.

Whatever your choice of white spirit, beware the own-label versions. They may be cheaper than the branded competition, but many are made from molasses rather than grain, and have been cheaply fermented.

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EXO

Exotic fruits and roots

Frances Bissell, the Times cook, recalls the flavours of her year in Nigeria



MY diary for one day in July 1966 describes the naming ceremony for baby Oluwoyo, the son of my neighbour Janet, who was a colleague at St Monica's Grammar School in Ondo, Nigeria, where I was a teacher with Voluntary Service Overseas.

Resonant Yoruba names — Bolanle Olubusola Abieke — were conferred on the child as he was presented with symbolic gifts of kola nuts, fish, salt, palm oil, meat and pepper. This was followed by a lunch of *akara*, *ebe*, *egusi* soup, *moyn-moyn*, Jollof rice, goat, liver and chicken.

It was certainly the gastronomic high point of my year in Nigeria. The rest of the time I lived on yams, plantains and groundnuts, with the occasional pepper chicken and rice when I was in funds. I was glad of the peppers, as it would have taken me a long time to adapt to eating cassava, yams, tannia, faro and all the other starchy roots that are not potatoes.

I was glad, too, of the papaya tree which grew outside the kitchen door. Breakfast was half a papaya and fresh lime, and I used the leftover skins to tenderise beef.

Ondo market was noisy. Cattle bellowed in the pens and high-life music was played at full volume. The market traders, all women, touted their wares in fine voice. I would usually part with a few *kobos*, or copper pennies, for a small, dusty heap of tomatoes, or a larger pile of oranges. It was only years afterwards that I realised how lucky I was to live on green, unreated, unsprayed oranges for that year.

As I write about the market, I can still smell the street food, my favourite of which was *akara*, small, savoury deep-fried cakes of bean paste in which there was buried mean shreds of chilli; very filling and very good. They make good "small chop", snacks to serve with drinks.

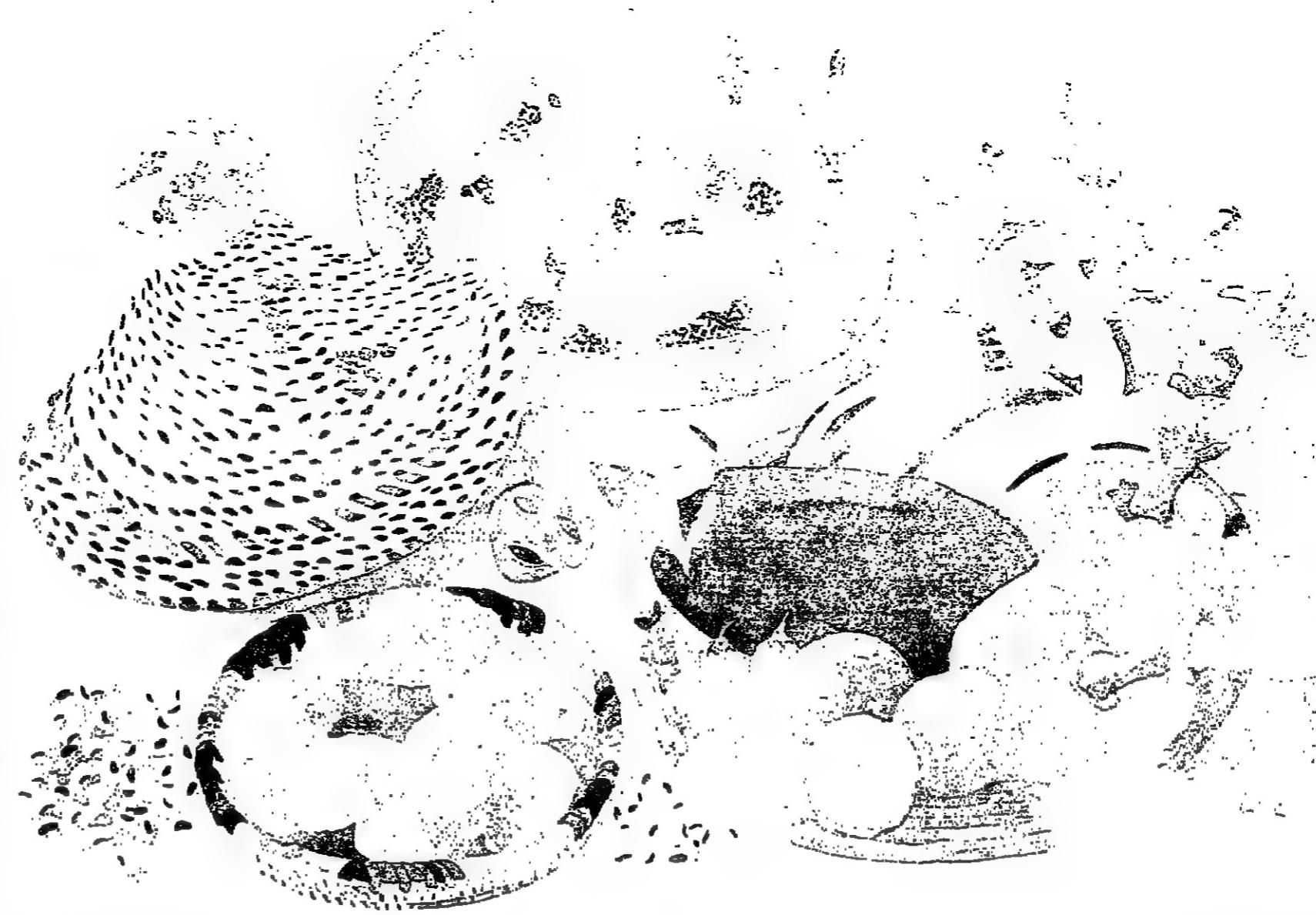
Some of the other recipes will do

well on a buffet, particularly the chicken Jollof rice, which came originally from the Gambia but has long been a party dish in Nigeria. *Egusi* soup, too, is popular for entertaining. Hulled melon seeds, from *citrullus colocynthis* of the water-melon family, are an important ingredient. If you cannot get them, shelled, unroasted pumpkin seeds are a good substitute. Tea-bush and parmentier are wild herbs with a pungent flavour much used in West African cooking; they are not unlike basil which I have suggested as a substitute.

The first two recipes are based on a paste made from ground, raw cowpeas or black-eyed beans. First, the beans should be hulled or skinned. To do this, soak the pulses for ten minutes in a bowl of cold water and then rub handfuls of the beans between the palms of your hands several times to make sure that the coats are rubbed off. Fill the bowl with water again and scoop out the skins, which will float to the surface. Repeat the process until all skins have been removed.

The next process depends on whether the paste is to be deep-fried, as for *akara*, or to be steamed, as for *moyn-moyn*. For the first, the beans are drained and then ground with as little water as possible to make the paste. For steamed dishes, the beans can be soaked for several hours and then drained and ground to a smooth paste in a food processor. Use about an equal volume of water to beans to make the paste. After grinding, the paste should be whisked to lighten it to an airy texture. Other ingredients are lightly folded in at the last minute so that the paste will not fall.

Palm oil is used extensively in Nigerian cooking. In its refined, concentrated form, it is a white, partially hydrogenated fat, with a texture like dripping. And like dripping, it is high in saturated fat. For frying I would use groundnut oil instead, but for flavouring and enriching, for which palm oil is also used, as in the next recipe, I might use chicken fat, butter, dripping, olive oil or even one of the nut oils.



Only palm oil, as you buy it straight from the market, thick, almost solid, like shoe polish, with a nutty flavour, will impart absolute authenticity. *Moyn-moyn*, a steamed bean paste to which other flavourings can be added, is usually eaten with a grain dish. A spoonful of pepper stews it up no end.

Alara bean fritters
(makes 12-18)
½ lb/230g black-eyed bean paste, made as previously described
1 free-range egg, separated
warm water
1 heaped tbsp onion or shallot, finely chopped
1 small red pepper, seeded and finely chopped, or 2-3 tsp dried chilli flakes
½ tsp salt
groundnut oil for frying

Put the bean paste in a bowl and whisk in the egg yolk. Continue whisking, adding warm water until a light, thick batter of dropping consistency is attained. Fold in the rest of the ingredients. Whisk the egg white and fold into the mix-

nure. Heat the oil to 180°C/350°F and drop in spoonfuls of the batter. When browned on the underside, turn the fritters over and fry until uniformly golden brown. Remove from the oil and drain on crumpled paper towels to absorb excess oil. Serve while still very hot.

Moyn-moyn
(serves 2-4)
½ lb/230g bean paste, prepared as previously described
2tbsp warm fat or oil
warm water
1 free-range egg
1 tbsp finely chopped onion
1 scant tsp salt
dried chilli, flaked, or fresh finely chopped chilli, to taste
optional additions: cooked fish, prawns, chicken or lamb, 360g/1lb 5oz baked, chopped or sliced tomatoes, sliced, cooked alra or chopped spinach to make this a vegetarian dish

Put the beans in a bowl and beat in the oil and the egg. Whisk in enough warm water to make a batter of custard consistency (it

should coat the back of a spoon). Fold in the rest of the ingredients and spoon into oiled ramekins. Cover each with foil. Place on a trivet in a saucepan with water not touching the dishes, put on the lid, and steam until just set, when a knife-point poked into the middle emerges clean. Serve in the ramekins or unmould. *Moyn-moyn* is traditionally steamed in leaves.

Chicken egusi
(serves 4-6)
2lb/900g chicken portions
6oz/170g dried hulled melon or pumpkin seeds
3tbsp groundnut oil
1 small onion, peeled and finely chopped
2 firm but ripe tomatoes, peeled, seeded and chopped
2 red chillies; for example, the conical Kenya or fingerlength Westland chilli
handful of fresh basil
salt to taste

Chop the chicken into smaller pieces and put in a saucepan. Cover with water, bring to the boil and simmer for ten minutes or so, until the soup thickens. Shred the basil and add this to the soup, and salt to taste. Serve in shallow soup plates, with bread or other starch as accompaniment.

Jollof rice with chicken and prawns
(serves 6)
1lb/455g ripe tomatoes, peeled, or 400g can of plum tomatoes
1 onion, peeled and chopped

skim any impurities from the surface. Lower the heat and simmer, partially covered, for about 40 minutes until the chicken is tender. Remove any bones from which the meat has fallen, together with any skin, and remove the pot from the heat to allow the fat to rise to the top. Skim off as much fat as possible and put the soup on to simmer once more, uncovered to reduce the liquid. Grind the seeds. Heat the oil in a small frying pan and fry the onion until wilted. Add the tomato and chillies and stir in the ground seeds. Moisten it with a little stock, and stir to a paste. Stir this into the soup, bring to the boil, and simmer for ten minutes or so, until the soup thickens. Shred the basil and add this to the soup, and salt to taste. Serve in shallow soup plates, with bread or other starch as accompaniment.

Chop the tomatoes and fry with the onion, chillies, pepper and nutmeg in most of the groundnut oil for five to ten minutes. Add the chicken pieces, raise the heat and cook for about ten minutes more until it loses its rawness. Pour in the rice and 1½pt/700ml water or chicken stock. Bring to the boil, cover with a tightly fitting lid, and lower the heat as far as possible. Cook for 20-25 minutes and then remove from the heat. Fork the rice to lighten it, and then cover once more to let the flavours develop for up to an hour. Just before serving, dry the prawns and fry them in the remaining oil for two to three minutes. Serve on top of the rice.

Renewed apples of our eyes

Annual Apple Day on Wednesday will celebrate old favourites and a revival of unusual varieties



I said to Heart, 'How goes it?' Heart replied: 'Right as a Ribstone Pippin!' But it lied."

It is the wish of the small but noisy orchard preservation charity, Common Ground, that Hilaire Belloc's rueline should coax more than a huffed "Right as a what?" from Britain's increasingly discerning army of apple-eaters.

The Ribstone or, correctly, Ribston Pippin was once the most popular and widely grown dessert apple in the country — winning literary status not only from Belloc, but from Dickens in *The Pickwick Papers*; there appears a "little hard-hearted Ribston-pippin faced man".

Though far from extinct, the gloriously scented Ribston is today known only to informed apple enthusiasts and experts (pomologists). The same goes for hundreds of other delicious and viable varieties among the 6,000 separate cultivars identified in the National Apple Register of the UK.

The annual Apple Day on October 21, first introduced by Common Ground three years ago, is intended to stop this rot. "We are trying to get Apple Day into the psychology of the country, rather like Midsummer's Day," says Sue Clifford, the charity's ever-optimistic co-ordinator who is hoping to repeat last year's inspired delivery of almost a ton of English apples to the House of Commons.

"We want people to think. It's October 21, it's Apple Day, let's have a great Haworthian [a rare apple variety from Edinburgh] pie," she says.

More than 80 apple-promoting events have been planned around the country next week, from the planting of a new orchard of the Cox's Orange Pippin, near its 19th-century founder, retired brew-

er Richard Cox, to cider-making demonstrations and tastings in Devon and Somerset, and a children's apple activity day at the Greenwich Borough Museum in Plumstead High Street on October 24.

"We're not merely looking to the past or trying to promote rare varieties of apples just for the sake of it. People want more varieties, and it's partly due to our efforts that you can fairly easily buy a St Edmunds Russet these days. Three or four years ago, you'd have been out of luck," Mrs Clifford says.

Traditional apples are becoming the chic epilogue to the autumn's dinner parties, and all the big supermarkets are competing to offer the best range of old-fashioned English fruit seen for years.

There will be more than 25 apple varieties — including Apple's Orange, Chivers' Delight and Ashmead's Kernel, first raised in Gloucester in 1700 — available at Sainsbury's with Safeway hoping to offer about 50, during the main October-April season.

Generally, the more uncommon apples are up to twice the

price of mass-marketed standards like Spartans (about 30p a pound).

Nature has done her best, too. It has been a superb year for Britain's apple-growers — a warm spring, rainy days in August and — the perfect finale — cool September nights and dewy dawns needed to bring out the colours of, among others, the best-selling Cox's Orange Pippin.

"The quality is sensational," says Joanna Wood, of the fruitgrowers' association English Apples and Pears. "It's a vintage harvest compared with the past couple of years, when frosty springs have been a disaster."

B ut is one terrific season, and the budding appeal of consumers for a Laxton's Superbit, or perhaps a Lord Lambourne, enough to broaden a Cox's Golden Delicious and Bramley-dominated market?

"To a certain extent, it's a case of why change when you've got proven winners?" Miss Wood says. "Cox's prove themselves year after year. But I think with the continued interest from the

supermarkets, growers will gradually gain more confidence in getting older varieties in circulation."

There are two other points that might sap the enthusiasm of our apple-growers for experimentation: the British still eat fewer apples than anyone in Europe, save for the Portuguese and Irish. Then there is the lesson to be learnt from the kiwi-fruit. In less than a decade, the once fashionable fruit has gone from boom to bust, from a rarity romanced by all the top chefs to a has-been at half the price it cost in 1982.

Independent apple farmer Jonathan Pollitzer who, with his partner John Wilson, runs The Appleman fruit shop in London's Goldhawk Road, is also aware of the risks of following seasonal fads.

"I only wish the sort of incentive we're seeing from the public could be reflected in the orchards. But bearing in mind the huge costs of farming, farmers simply do grub out everything except Cox's and Bramleys. It is a terrible shame."

JODY TRESIDDER

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THRESHER
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The night my number almost came up

James Hepburn
tries his luck at
the casino, with
predictable results

We are a sporting people but we do not like casinos. There is something foreign about them. A casino is a place on the Riviera where almond-eyed women smoke black cigarettes, a Terry Thomas lookalike breaks the bank and the man in the white jacket has a past but no future.

Nowhere is more foreign than the Golden Nugget. I became a member in 1977 because my friend Martin Hancock had made his first sale of double-glazed windows in Byfleet, Surrey, and wanted to be sophisticated. We wore polyester-mix suits with wide lapels, narrow shoulders and 18in flares. I lost £7 playing blackjack. Martin won £12, and that has been the story of our lives.

I went back again last week because I received a cheque for £119 by accident. I have a roulette system which I have tried in foreign casinos and I wanted to see if it would be as unsuccessful in England.

The entrance to the Golden Nugget is on Shaftesbury Avenue, just up from Piccadilly Circus. It is open from 2pm to 4am. The men in black ties at reception did not remember my face, which is hard as it is my only London club. "Did you want to go in now?" they asked. I looked at them more closely. They were polite, slightly built and middle-aged. They were not the sort of steroid psychotics you expect to find in black ties in a doorway in Soho. "Yes," I said. They charged me £3.50 for life membership. I thought I already had life membership, but that was probably only for life.

The gaming hall is upstairs. It is a vast, windowless room, carpeted in a diamond pattern like the back of a pack of playing cards. The ceiling is patterned like the back of a bigger pack of cards, with three chandeliers stuck into it.

There were perhaps 300 bodies in the room, clustered around the roulette tables near the door and masking the blackjack and punto banco at the far end. There were whispers and shufflings and the click of roulette balls. No one was whooping or laughing, fainting or screaming. This was not a house of fun. There was music, but so faint that it might have been from a lift in the building next door.

Apart from the croupiers everyone seemed to be foreign. They didn't look like high-rollers, more middle or low-rollers. Most seemed to have broken into my attic and stolen the suit I was wearing in 1977. I finally made out the tune was coming from the walls: The Stylistics singing "You Make Me Feel Brand New".

I changed my £119 for chips and circled the roulette tables. The minimum stakes range from £1 to £5, and the crowd was thickest at the cheaper end. The one thing that screamed out as I moved from table to table was that none of these people were dreaming of big one. They were gambling to pass the time, blanketing the roulette baize with chips to cover every combination. There was no passion.

There are three games in the Golden Nugget: roulette, blackjack and punto banco. The latter is played on a table shaped like a Subbuteo stadium and, although I

have watched it in casinos on three continents, I still have not got a clue what happens. It is played with cards, it is very exciting when you get a nine, and it may be almost the same as baccarat or chemin de fer. Punto banco is serious betting.

I had a single throw on the roulette with £20, doubled it to £40 and took my money to the blackjack table. In blackjack you put down your bet and are given two cards. The dealer has one card. The dealer then offers you as many more cards as you like, one by one. The aim is to get closer to 21 than the dealer. Court cards count ten and aces are 11 or one. If you go over 21 you are bust.

I sat on the £2-minimum table between a woman speaking an eastern European dialect and a Filipino, who looked for a long time

at a piece of paper in his breast pocket whenever he was offered a card. Most of the croupiers were women. They were dressed in sapphire-blue togas. None of them had coffin faces and eyes like slate. Mine reminded me of my aunt.

My system in blackjack involves playing the minimum stake, waiting until I win and then doubling my stake on the next hand. This is based on the winning streak theory of gambling. It is a very stupid system and I always lose at blackjack, although I once beat both my sisters at vingt-et-un.

By one o'clock I had £100 left. It was time for my system.

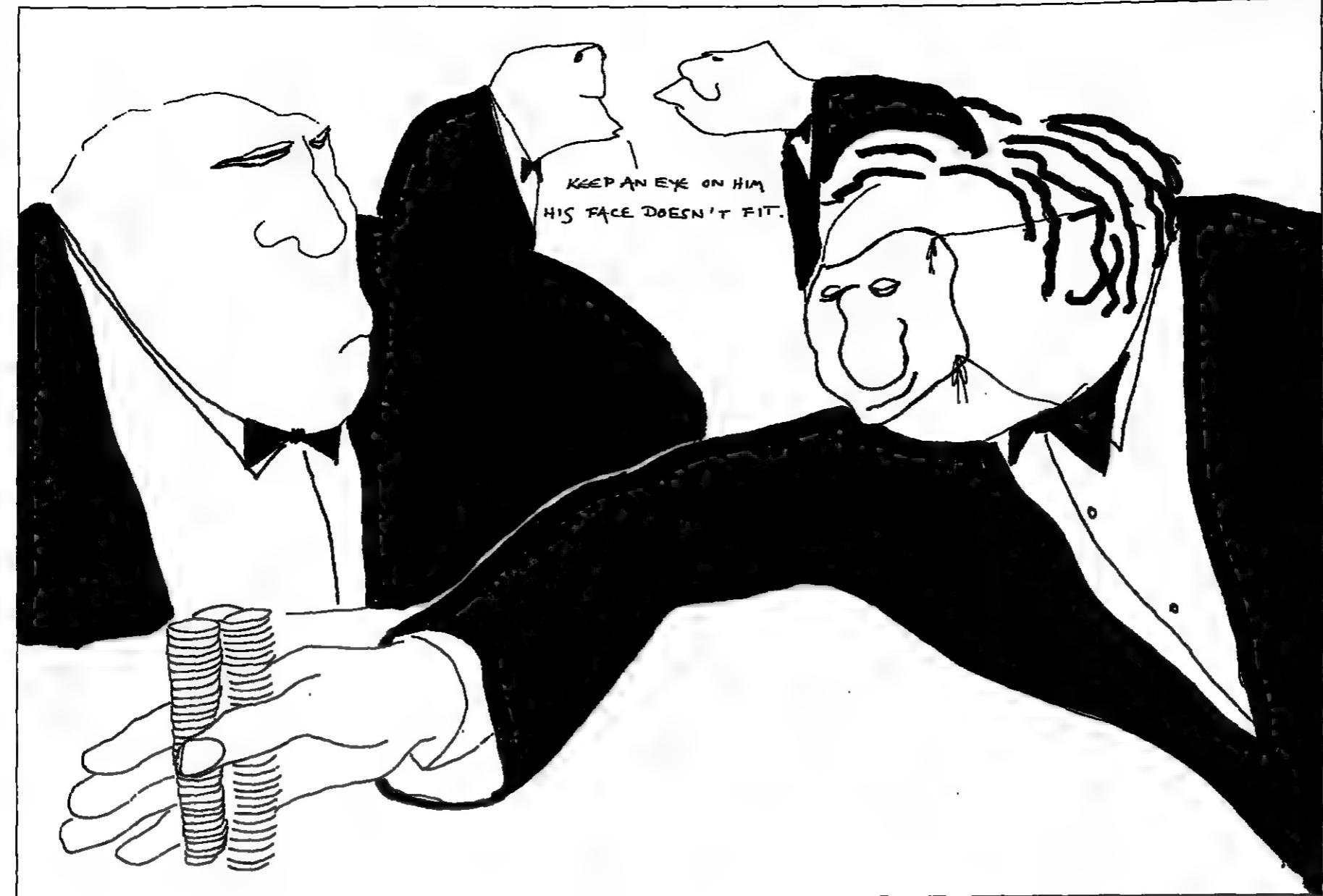
If you play roulette for ever you will lose. The odds take no account of the zero and this gives the house an edge of one thirty-seventh. The only way to make serious money at

roulette is to play cautiously for a long time and be lucky, to bet on individual numbers and be very lucky, or to double up your winnings and be outrageously lucky.

If you were to bet on even money chances on a table with no betting limit, put all your winnings back on the table and win 64 hands in a row, starting with a £1 stake, you would end with £2 trillion. This is impossible, partly because the Golden Nugget has a £5,000 limit on any single even bet, and because the odds are two trillion to one. My system is a diluted form of doubling. It is a very stupid system but holds out the hope of riches.

I sat next to a tiny old woman, who grinned at me and took a long white cigarette from her handbag. On my other side was a Chinese man. I put my four £25 chips on red. The croupier spun the wheel and tossed in the little silver ball, which jumped and clanked and then clinked on 27 red. I left my stake and winnings on red. The next throw was 33 red. I put £100 in my pocket and left the remaining £300 on red. The croupier spun the ball. I closed my eyes and saw black. I pushed the money on to black. The ball stopped on 33 red. Again. This time it could have been different. It could have happened. Every time it could have happened. This time it hadn't. I cashed my £100 and walked to the door. The Stylistics were singing "When Will I See You Again?"

I had paid £19 for three hours in a place with all the passion of the booking hall at Victoria bus station. But there had been a moment... It could have happened.



Venues

CERTAIN rules apply to all United Kingdom casinos. You need to present yourself in person to reception to complete an application form. You should take two forms of identification including one showing your address. You then have to wait 48 hours before gambling unless you are accompanying a member. Gambling hours are between 2pm and 4am. All the casinos named below offer roulette and blackjack. There are casinos in most main towns; ask at the local tourist board. Most clubs require smart dress. The gaming laws forbid the serving of alcohol at tables and tipping of casino staff.

LONDON

□ Aspinwall's
28 Curzon Street (071-499 4599)
The smartest and most exclusive London gaming club. If they like the look of you they may accept your membership application. You need to register in person between midday and 8pm.

Crediton

30 Curzon Street (071-493 7771)
Also very smart. The committee reserves right to turn down applications. Membership £150 per annum, punto banco available.

The Golden Nugget Casino

22-32 Shaftesbury Avenue (071-439 0099)
Life membership £3.50, punto banco available.

Charlie Chester Casino

12 Archer Street (071-734 0255)
Life membership £5, dice available.

LIVERPOOL

□ Stanley's Casino
45-55 Renshaw Street (051-708 8866)
Membership free. Poker and punto banco available.

MANCHESTER

□ Crawford Casino
10 Canal Street (061-228 3141)
Membership free.

BIRMINGHAM

□ Stakis Casino
84 Hill Street (021-643 1777)
Membership free. Punto banco and kai-koo available.

EDINBURGH

□ Regency Casino
14 Picardy Place (031-557 3585)
Membership free.

GLASGOW

□ Berkeley Casino
506 Sauchiehall Street (041-332 0992)
Membership free. Punto banco available.

BRIGHTON

□ Sergeant York's Casino
28-32 Queen's Road (0273 26514)
Membership free. Dice and poker available.

NEWCASTLE

□ Stanley Grey's Casino
Grey Court (091-332 0900)
Membership free. Poker available.

NOTTINGHAM

□ Regency Casino
Maid Marian Way (0602 799258)
Membership free. Poker available.

● Gambler's Anonymous can be contacted on 071-352 3060

071-481 1920

SATURDAY RENDEZVOUS

FAX 071-782 7828

LADIES

A caring, cleverful, positive, attractive, professional, 37, petite, blonde, with a romantic, romantic lady, lively mind and body. I would like to hear from you if you are active and successful and interested in meeting like-minded women. Please Reply to Box No 5166

APPRENTICE for life, hate dating and need a friend. French lady (25), interests include books, travel, writing. In the UK. Needs an open-minded, intelligent, 28-32 for women, intellectually stimulated, with a sense of humor. Please Reply to Box No 4929

ATTRACTIVE lady, good sense of humor, enjoys theatre & music, likes to travel. Needs a 30-35, intelligent male, 26-30 for a genuine relationship. Please Reply to Box No 5166

ATTRACTIVE, intelligent, new French lady (25). Interested in books, travel, writing. In the UK. Needs an open-minded, intelligent, 28-32 for women, intellectually stimulated, with a sense of humor. Please Reply to Box No 4929

ATTRACTIVE lady, good sense of humor, enjoys theatre & music, likes to travel. Needs a 30-35, intelligent male, 26-30 for a genuine relationship. Please Reply to Box No 5166

BEAUTIFUL American, Indian, looks like a queen, and very attractive. Interested in meeting like-minded women. Please Reply to Box No 5166

BEWITCHING Ex-Expat loves nature, loves to travel, loves to cast over a tall, amiable, huggable man who has children. Please Reply to Box No 5166

BRAINY beauty looking for bella soul and all that jazz. Please Reply to Box No 5166

CURVACEOUS, charismatic, witty and wise man 50-60 to charm her. London area. Serious, honest, kind, with C.V. and photo please. Please Reply to Box No 5006

DELICIOUS delights, offered in amorous adventures, meet intelligent, attractive, warm, kind and considerate, 28-32, with a great sense of humor and some passion. Please Reply to Box No 4929

EX-BUNNY now looking for new friends. 26-34, 5'5", 11st, blonde, blue eyes, brown hair, 100% natural. Please Reply to Box No 5167

FRANCOPHILE female lady looking for a partner (40s) free to share pastimes, hobbies, interests, etc. High standard of living. Photo & letter please to Box 5006

INTELLIGENT attractive, witty, active, caring, refined lady, very kind, smart, sensible. Please Reply to Box No 4944 with recent photo

THE MARRIAGE BUREAU KATHARINE ALLEN (Managing Director Heather Arnell) Matchmakers with old fashioned commonsense and sound warmth! Established 1940; Founder S.M.B. Tel: 071 925 3115

LADIES

SATURDAY RENDEZVOUS

MEET FISHER introductions Ltd, 44 well-ed, prof attractive, career-oriented, intelligent, romantic, compatible, but man needs to be a bit more active and successful and interested in meeting like-minded women. Please Reply to Box No 5061

LOVING home, call attractive for new relationship. Only rich British men, 35-45, with a good job, stable, honest, kind, good family background. Please Reply to Box No 5110

OUR similarities attract us warmly. In voice, body and mind. Intelligent, kind, good family background. Please Reply to Box No 5110

PERFECTLY PREPARED for you. 30 year old outgoing lady, 5'5", 11st, brown eyes, brown hair, 100% natural. Please Reply to Box No 5110

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Who gets what on dosh day?

Lynne Greenwood investigates pocket money and gives the results of two surveys

At Wackford Squeers's academy, Dotheboys Hall, "Youth are boarded, clothed, booked, furnished with pocket-money, provided with all necessities, instructed in all languages living and dead." But what Charles Dickens tantalisingly did not reveal to readers of *Nicholas Nickleby* was how much pocket money the young boys received in the mid-1800s.

Almost 150 years later, pocket money still plays an important part in Britain's economy, as far as children are concerned. Ask any youngster the meaning of ERM and he or she might just say Ever Ready-Money. But when it comes to who gets how much at what age, random research across the country shows that there is no such thing as an average.

My 12-year-old son in West Yorkshire received £2.50 a week after a recent rise prompted by the discovery that his 12-year-old cousin in Cheshire was 50p a week better off.

Among his friends, one 12-year-old also gets £2.50, another £5 and a third, an 11-year-old, 85p. Brothers Donald and Nicholas Gill of Bedford, each get £2 but use their money differently. Donald, nine, is a good saver, sometimes spending pocket money on his interest in arts and crafts, while Nicholas, eight, wants to rush out and spend it often on his collection of £1.99 model tractors.

Three ten-year-old girlfriends from Lingfield Primary School, Middlesbrough, who were fascinated by the computerised pocket-money survey at the national children's museum, Eurek, revealed similar disparities. Gemma Campbell gets 50p a week, Kathryn Hurn £1 and Hannah Tunley £2.50. All three said they spent their money for holidays, clothes and presents.

Since the museum opened in July, 5,638 children (and some adults) enjoying a moment of nostalgia have completed the survey, which is linked to *The Times* electronic mail network system for schools. Campus 2000.

The results give some indication of how much children receive and how they spend it.

Almost 3/4 of those who completed the survey receive between £1 and £1.99, with 23 per cent getting less than £1. Sixteen per cent received between £2 and £2.50, and 24 per cent £5 or more (although some of those taking part

were adults playing the game). The days of true pocket money seem to begin about the age of seven, with those younger than that getting less than £1 a week, and last until the children are aged about 14. After that it often becomes a more adult "allowance" or is supplemented or replaced by earnings from a newspaper round, Saturday job or errands at home.

Pocket money day, as it was at Dotheboys Hall, is Saturday.

When six friends, boarders and day pupils at Bronte House Prep School, at Apperley Bridge, near Bradford, West Yorkshire, got together to talk money, they made interesting listening. Graham Harrigan, a ten-year-old full boarder, whose father is stationed with the RAF in Germany, is allowed £20 pocket money a term.

Set by the school, the amount has doubled in 14 years. The money is retained by the boarding tutor and doled out sparingly when children go off on organised weekend trips to be spent on sweets, ice-creams, souvenirs.

"I usually take about £2 if we go for a walk or swimming," Graham says. "But I try not to spend all the money during a term. I like to save some, then might buy computer games with it in the holidays."

At home in Germany, he sometimes offers to cut the RAF lawns around his home "for about DM1.50 — about 60p".

Weekly boarders such as Claire Dalton, nine, are allowed to keep £7 a term at school, which is always supplemented by weekend pocket money at home. "I get £1 a week from my mum and I'll usually spend it in the park on ice-creams or going on rides," Claire says. "I save some in my money box."

Richard Matthews, an 11-year-old day pupil, had 10p a week rise on his birthday to £1.40. As a train enthusiast, he usually spends some of this on weekend family rail journeys, but is also a keen saver. "I've got some money in my bank," says Richard, a talented crown green bowler with a few tournaments successes to his credit. "I've won about £35 in all. Now I'd like to buy my own jack, which costs about £24."

Jane Purkiss, nine, gets £1 a week, supplemented by a possible extra £1.40 if she washes and vacuums her father's car at the weekend. "I get more if I do my mum's, because



Economic soap-box: even in the 1950s, Saturday pocket money was a vital issue, as these Just William-like characters reveal

it's bigger," she says. Her 11-year-old brother gets his £6 pocket money monthly.

Gurpreet Midha, 11, gets £2, which she spends on sweets, pens and pencils and souvenirs from family trips. "I try to save for new trainers too," she says.

Adam Curtis, ten, who started with 20p a week aged five, now gets £1. "I go down to the shop and get the *Beano* or *Dandy*, or sometimes a computer magazine and sweets. Sometimes if I cut the grass I get an extra 20p, but it's hard work

because it's on a steep hill."

When the Halifax Building Society began its annual pocket-money survey of the under-12 members of its savers' club in 1987, the national average was put at £1.13, rising slowly each year to £1.48 this year.

The Halifax's sixth survey of more than 4,000 young people, published today, shows "a generation of hard-working, financially aware youngsters, many of whom work for their pocket money and save as much as they can".

Girls favoured saving for holidays, clothes and presents and boys

on changes with age, and there is a definite trend towards saving.

Just over half the children who completed the Eurek survey said they saved, closely followed by those who spent the money on sweets and drinks.

For younger children, saving still means having a traditional money box at home, maybe with a bank account in which parents save for them. Many older children have their own savings account.

Girls favoured saving for holidays, clothes and presents and boys

for computer games, football strips, sports activities and trips out with the family.

Younger children still spend on sweets, comics and toys, with older ones going for tapes and CDs, computer games, visits to the cinema or a football match.

When each child has completed the Eurek survey, in about three minutes, the computer tells them: "In the time it has taken you to fill in this survey, your teacher has earned 60p. I wonder what he or she will spend it on."

Events

NATIONWIDE

□ **Biggleswade's best friends** Grand exemption dog show in memory of the many different family dogs who lived at Shirewath between 1888-1935. *The Shirewath Collection, Old Warden Aerodrome, Biggleswade, Bedfordshire, 0167 627 2881. Tomorrow 10am-4pm, last admission 3pm £4, child £3 and student £2.50.*

□ **Botley busies** Take the children to see steam threshing and rick building, corn dith and beeskep making in a traditional farm environment with sheep, cows, pigs and a shire horse. *Manor Farm, Upper Hamble Country Park, Brook Lane, Botley, Hampshire (0499 757 0553). Tomorrow, 10am-3pm £3-20pm.*

□ **Bridlington birds** The last of the season's RSPB sea and shearwater cruises to Flamborough Head and around Bridlington Bay. The trip lasts three to four hours. Check ticket availability and confirm sailing. *Bridlington Pier, Bridlington, Humberside. Tomorrow, 10am-12.30pm £7, child £3.50. Information and booking, 0522 533 596.*

□ **Chatham ordnance day** Spectacular display with guns from the ordnance collection explained, demonstrated and fired. *The Historic Dockyard, Chatham, Kent (0634 812 551). Tomorrow, 10am-6pm £5-20, child £2.60.*

□ **Lincoln big top** Chipperfield's, Britain's oldest circus, visits East Anglia. Acts include high wire artists, acrobatics, tumbling and limbo dancing plus clowns, elephants and lions. *South Common, Lincoln. Today 1pm and 4pm, tomorrow 11am and 3pm. Tickets £6, child £5. Grandstand £6, child £4. Tiers £5, child £3. Booking and further information, 0522 568 850.*

□ **Long Melford Tudor farm** Visit an entirely organic working farm run on traditional lines with rare breeds of animals, fancy horses and donkeys, and the model manor house, walled garden and maze. Home-made lunches and teas available. *Kennell Hall, Long Melford, Suffolk (0787 3 05207). Farm daily noon to 5pm until October 31, house and gardens until October 25. House, gardens and farm, £4, child £2.50. Farm only £1.75, child £1.*

□ **Taunton carnival** One of many traditional West Country illuminated carnivals begins with a cider barrel race and is followed by a grand procession and floats throughout the town. Collection for local charities. *Taunton, Somerset. Today 6.30-9pm. Further information, 0823 747 755.*

□ **Wilmot festival** Children's events Monday, children's non-stop: "Are You Smiling" competition with Sophie Overfield, formerly of *Listen With Mother*. Next Friday and Saturday, African Jigane, a fund-raising musical about life in Africa, part of the One World Week and recommended by Sir David Attenborough. *Wilmot, Cheshire. Story. Wilmot Library, Monday 3pm. Free Musical United Reform Church, Friday, Saturday 7.30pm. Tickets £3. Box office and information, 0625 523 275.*

JUDY FROSHAUG

An ABC guide to half-term activities

Whatever your child's holiday interests, indoors or out, there is sure to be something entertaining and exciting listed here



G is for Go — to the theatre: the youngsters will love to see the Polka Children's Theatre shows or the British Puppet and Model Theatre Guild's annual performance



London EC2. The Swan Theatre, Worcester (0905 726 969) stages *The Magic and Music Show* by David Wood on October 31, £3.50. Or, write your own plays and make puppets out of old gloves/socks.

HARVEST by proxy. See how chocolate is made, and provides waxwork at Madame Tussaud's. Also an updated Queen and Duke of Edinburgh. Family ticket £16.95. Tussaud's, Marylebone Road, NW1 5LR (071-465 0077).

Go to the theatre. The Polka Children's Theatre is staging *The Fleets in Sulz's Day* next Saturday, and *St George and The Dragon* on October 31. The Broadway, Wimbledon, SW19. £16.95 (£8.45 for under-fives). The British Banknotes: An exhibition of part of the world's largest collection of British bank notes. From Discovery receipt to the £1 million note — they never leave the building. *Bank of England Museum, Threadneedle Street, EC2, Sun-Tuesday, Mon-Fri, 10am-4pm. £1.50.*

J.F.

KITE fly. Buy one for a fiver or make your own. Buy *Easy to Make Decorative Kites*, a Dover Publications book, £2.65.

LOLL in front of a film at the Children's Film Festival between October 17-25. Variety of films from Europe. National Film Theatre, South Bank, SE1. £3.95. Closed on Fridays.

MAKE "Votes for Women" posters at the National Museum's design/collage workshops as part of the exhibition "The Purple, White and Green: Suffragettes in London 1906-1914", at 150 London Wall EC2Y SHN (071-600 3699). Workshops open October 27-31. Activities free; entry to museum £3, child £1.50.

NEWSPAPER pictures make good collages. Get each child to cut out a sentence from *The Times*, glue it on a card and pass it to the next child who sticks another

sentence after it to make a story. The result could sound very funny.

OLD Soopy television/stage sets and black and white Soopy films are on display in Yorkshire as part of the puppet's fortieth birthday celebrations. Soopy's World, Windhill Manor, Leeds Road, Shipley, W. Yorkshire (0274 531 122), £2 child £1.50. Closed on Fridays.

PAIN'T pebbles. Make a mouse by sticking on string for tail and sequins for eyes. Or stick shells from last summer's holiday on a shoebox lid to make jewellery box.

QUICK! Send the children to sea with courses run by the Royal Yachting Association nationwide (0703 629 962).

RUB a brass at the London Brass Rubbing Centre, the Crypt, St Martin-in-the-Fields, Trafalgar Square, WC2N 4JU. Open 10am-6pm (midday onwards on Sundays). Prices start at £1.50, according to which replica brass you rub. The cost includes materials such as wax and the sizes of brasses vary from 1-7ft.

SCOURT the loft. You might well be lucky and discover a long-forgotten...

TENT. Go camping in the back garden, or even the sitting-room if it's raining.

UNLEASH a child's inhibitions at The Fabulous Forest, Binton Park, near Exeter, Devon (0395 684 65). An indoor, soft adventure playground, £2.85 for adults and children.

VISIT the Beaupre Fireworks Fair at Brockenhurst, Hampshire on October 31. Admission

Board on 071-824 8000. The London Brass Rubbing Centre, the Crypt, St Martin-in-the-Fields, Trafalgar Square, WC2N 4JU. Open 10am-6pm (midday onwards on Sundays). Prices start at £1.50, according to which replica brass you rub. The cost includes materials such as wax and the sizes of brasses vary from 1-7ft.

WALK round your village/town/road and make a map showing houses, fields, shops. Collect and press wild flowers en route for your nature diary.

XCITE the children with a ride on the Hallou'en Special train on October 25 at Embrey station museum, Skipton, North Yorkshire (0756 794 727). Children are encouraged wear fancy dress. £2.50 adults and children.

YUNIMY! Make fudge or biscuits under adult supervision. Shake milk in sealed jam jar to watch it turn to butter, then cheese.

ZOO visit. Take a trip to London Zoo at Regent's Park before it really does close. £6, child £3.50. Under-fours free. "Animals In Action" show 1.30pm.

JANE BIDDER

Welcome to the tribe, stranger

A new series about life's social rituals and challenges. This week: doing the new baby thing. Louisa Young reports

A child is born. It is healthy and lusty. The nurse cuts the cord, washes the infant, wraps it in a soft blanket, and hands it to its mums. Signs of relief, gulps of joy.

So much is common to most mothers. Then what? It is the rites of passage time: the celebration. The reason may be religious; because you like giving parties; that you want everybody to know that you love the child to bits and want to show it off. Whatever the reason, the desire blossoms for a ritual of some kind. You want to mark the occasion and have baby pictures in the album. So how do you do it?

The law requires that you register a baby, by name, within six weeks. Other than that, it is up to you. You might draft the announcement to go in a newspaper, *The Times* even. And then the baptism.

Depending on the religion, you might get the long, late christening back from cousin Archie; you might consider which is your favourite Simon and Garfunkel song and your preferred passage by Kahil Gibran; you might call for a doctor, if the child is a boy, to cut off its foreskin.

The worst a Christian baby is likely to face is a little splashing, a lot of outrageous huss and minor parental annoyance when it throws up on its long, lace frill.

Greek Orthodox babies have a tougher time: the priest wears a big black hat and a long beard and, until recently, was likely to dunk the naked infant, head and all, three times into the font of oily water.

Those who have experienced the Greek ceremony (and it used to be legally required for Greek citizenship) have described it as "very traumatic". These days things tend to be a little less draconian: stripped by the godparents, the baby sits in the font and the priest just pours water over it. Everybody walks around the font three times and there is a lot of icon-kissing and incense-burning. When it is over all the guests are given a little crucifix with the child's initials on it to take home as a present. What it is made of depends on the family's wealth.

The first thing every newborn Moslem should hear is that Allah is the only god and Muhammad is his prophet, and the call to prayer. Later, at home, comes the Awiqa,

the shaving of the infant's head, when all the friends and relations come and eat and make merry. Many societies, including Tibetans, cut off the birth hair. Traditional-minded folk like to collect the hair and destroy it in case it should get into the wrong hands and be used for black magic.

Buddhist babies probably have the easiest time of it. Nothing has to be done for a Nichiren Soshu baby, because it is up to the child to decide its spiritual preferences for itself when it is old enough. If the parents want to encourage this, they can take it along for a Gojukai ceremony, "embracing the precept". Because the ceremony has to be led by a priest, and there is no Nichiren Soshu priest based in Britain, it takes place here only about every year or so. Up to 800 people do it at once, including adult converts and children.

It is very much a personal ceremony, with a lot of chanting, promises, reciting of the lotus sutra and saying *Nam myoho renge kyo*, by which you dedicate yourself to the ultimate teachings of Buddhism. The small children, of course, don't, and neither does anyone make any promises on their behalf. When the children are older they can do it again if they wish.

The priest's role is to touch everyone on the head with a rolled-up scroll (Gohonzon) of the lotus sutra; when it is over, you leave the Gohonzon home and enshrine it, with the celebratory activities of your choice. In Britain this may well include eating cake and wearing hats, because we tend to like that and because Buddhism has always adapted to local customs. There is no special level of smartness required for the ceremony, though you are meant to dress appropriately. This can mean anything from party dress to sober suits.

For those who find even this gentle approach a bit too religious, there remain the much-mocked Humanist ceremonies: cax visions of happy laughing social workers agreeing to be the Supporting Adult of Young Saffron Sunflower (while Saffron Sunflower's sisters and brothers' Supporting Adults take this opportunity to reaffirm their commitments) to a soundtrack of "Isn't She Lovely".

But this may sound unjust. Humans' baby-welcoming ceremonies are "individual": they fit around the beliefs and requirements of the family". A Humanist ceremony is only as "naïf as your taste. If you insist on reading the poem your husband (oops, sorry, your Significant Other) wrote while massaging your ankles during labour then you have only yourself to blame. If you think that "Special Friend" or "Friendparent" is a decent way to refer to those you have honoured with "I don't believe in godparenthood", so be it.

It takes only a little imagination

to avoid the obvious: "Sue and John are expressing their joy in their latest child... and we are all expressing our love for them and their children..."; or the crass, "to love and cherish this child's uniqueness and to do all in your power to help

him/her to respect her/his mind and body, and to view bodily functions and needs in a natural way". If you do not want a god involved, you could take all the nice bits of any religious ceremony you like, and substitute the supreme of your choice (Goddess? Fate? Nature? Reason? Elvis?). If any supreme power at all is too much for you, you could ditch all that and instead play all the classic pop songs ever addressed to "Baby": for example, "Be My Baby" by the Ronettes, "Baby Love" by the Supremes, or "Ooh Baby Baby" by Smokey Robinson.

You could find a specific song: "My Son Calls Another Man Daddy", by Hank Williams, might do for a child who slipped in between divorce and wedding. "1,000 Maniacs Eating for Two"

would be appropriate for a single-parent baby's celebration. Tammy Wynette's "Dear Daughters" would be a fair warning from a career-minded mother about how life was likely to be ("Sorry I wasn't there for your first... kiss/graduation/wedding/etc").

If you insist on the Kahili Gilan bit about how "our children are not our children, they are the sons and the daughters of life's longing for itself: they come through us but not from us and though they are with us, they belong not to us", could I recommend the version sung by the radical Black Washington a capella feminist soul/funk/Gospel group Sweet Honey in the Rock? It is sung so beautifully that even the most cynical of your Special Friends will be moved.

A Buddhist rite of passage: in this case a Gojukai ceremony for a Nichiren Soshu baby in London



MY PERFECT WEEKEND

CRISTINA ODONE

Editor of the Catholic Herald



Where would you go?

To Piedmont in northern Italy. I try to go there every summer.

How would you get there?

In the past I have driven from England, but it takes two days and I'm terrified on the Italian autorstrada. Italians don't drive on the motorway, they fly. On my perfect weekend I'd fly Alitalia which has the best food and the best dressed stewards: who cares about punctuality once you are on your way to Italy?

Where would you stay?

In my family house in the medieval village of Gamalero. Situated on a hillside and surrounded by vineyards, it is a minute village with a population of 300. The house, where my great-grandparents and grandparents lived, was built in the last century. It is huge but falling apart and, as there is no heating, is mainly used as a summer house. A caretaker keeps the garden going.

Who would you play any games or sport?

I'd go for long, up-hill walks. What luxury would you take? Chanel No. 5.

What piece of art would you like to have there?

Any Francis Bacon portrait of a bishop.

Who would be your least welcome guest?

The seamstress, Rina, who is the village gossip. She knew my grandparents and refers to my family as "the foreigners": my parents live in Washington.

Which newspapers or journals would you read?

The *Catholic Herald*, *The Oldie* and *Private Eye*.

What three things would you leave behind?

My watch, my address book and my alarm clock.

What three things would you most like to do?

Find a truffle without a pig. Dance at the annual village fiesta. Each village has a patron saint and ours is Saint Lorenzo whose feast day is on August 10. And watch the morning sun come up from the attic windows.

To whom would you send a postcard?

My boys at the *Herald*.

What souvenir would you bring home?

Some hazelnuts from the trees that grow near the house.

What would you like to find when you got home?

A huge bouquet of red roses from someone I don't know.

Interview by Rosanna Greenstreet

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WHAT TO WEAR

Comme des garçons... et des filles

Alice Thomson has spent years of exchanges and holidays studying what makes the French so instinctively chic, and trying in vain to copy it herself — although in one vital regard, she scents a British victory



Flea marketeers: bargain-hunting in his battered fedora, her second-hand tweed jacket



Rouge et noir in Paris: the weekend starts here for the Fiat set in comfortable red blouson and classic black blazer, his and hers chambord shirts



Tout confort: post-Pucci leggings and boots



Baggy chic cardigan layers, cigarette pants

She saunters down the street in stretched Lycra, a linen jacket thrown over her shoulders and an immaculately clipped dog at her well-heeled shoes. Pausing for a drink at a café, she delicately crosses her newly waxed legs and balances a cigarette on her lips. She's neither a bimbo nor a frump — she's French.

Casual chic is something that the British have never quite got the hang of. No matter how carefully you pack for a weekend in France, you will always be upstaged by the locals with their formidable sense of style.

The government did not have to ban shell suits, baggy leggings or last year's designer disaster — the French just don't wear them. Nor do they wear shorts in the capital or old Barbour's when it rains. "Style is something we take very, very seriously," says Perrine Pasco, a French journalist who is married to an Englishman.

"If you want to be attractive to the opposite sex, then you must take an intelligent interest in what you wear. That also applies to men and women who have been married for 20 years. If you want to keep your marriage you must work at it."

But the British have continued to believe that style is being able to get away with a ten-year-old pair of trousers. Even if they do make the effort, they never quite master the art. When my mother went on a French exchange just after the second world war, my grandmother knitted her a swimsuit complete with crocheted flowers. Arriving in the South of France with her new acquisition she was devastated. Everyone was in slinky black swimsuits.

Thirty years later, determined not to make the same mistake, she sent me off on my first exchange with a slinky new swimsuit with go-faster stripes down the side. I was mortified. Everyone was in cotton bikinis. Endless French exchanges and extended holidays later, I still haven't

grasped it. How do they do? This seemingly effortless air appears to be instilled from birth, when the babies play with their mothers' Chantilly pearls. By eight the girls are sent off to the local école to be taught to learn how to age their makeup and have their legs waxed. By 12 they have had their moustaches electrolysed and the boys are given their first aftershave.

"It's breeding," says Zizi Herbaï, a fashion student in Paris. "We would never be seen dead in anything unfashionable. As much as we like you dungarees and your bib-



Rock 'n' roll look in leather



Titi parisien all zipped

WHO WEARS WHAT IN PARIS

- Bon chic bon genre (BCBG): They live in Neuilly and shop in St Germain. The men wear brown loafers, Lacoste T-shirts and flannel trousers, and throw their cotton knitted jumpers over their shoulders. Women are called FHCPs (*foulard Hermès collier de perles*). They wear clean jeans and little jumpers in navy, beige and red. It is imperative to look identical and rich.
- Rock 'n' roll: They shop at Chevignon Trading Post, wear leather jackets and cowboy boots and put bandanas round their dogs' necks. Women have long hair and tight-buttoned coloured jeans.
- Rap: Only for the under 20s. They sport Reeboks, Nikes and Jordans and wear baggy jeans, tracksuits or African pants bought in Les Halles.
- Gaulier designer look: Hard to imitate unless you've got the figure. Hair is slicked back and gelled. Girls wear rubber and Lycra, boys sport suits, caps and sideburns.
- Titi parisien: The urchin look popular among fashion and architecture students. The girls have bare legs, platform shoes, heavy make-up and long eyelashes. Men wear "lorry driver" jumpers with zips up the front, berets and checked shirts, but always in pristine condition.
- Coquette Bardot (girls only): Underwired bras, floral above-the-knee dresses, tapered trousers and short skirts with tanned legs.
- Toute parisienne: Almost impossible to imitate, this style takes breeding. Their goddess is Inès de la Fressange; they mix Karl Lagerfeld and Chanel with chain-store items and wear Hermès scarves without looking frumpy.



Keeping the tea in tradition

POLLY ROCKBURGER/CHRIS BEETLES LTD

Clement Freud nibbles his way through the daintiest afternoon fare, and offers his own choice tips

The French, to whom we tend to look for guidance on culinary matters, call it "le five o'clock" (pronounced "le feest eau cloque"). In the case of afternoon tea, they take their lead from us, for this is a uniquely British happening.

Recession has hit the catering industry harder than most and minor meals have been the heaviest casualties. In the 1960s the Imperial Hotel at Torquay held tea dances every afternoon — with hot cinnamon toast and professional dancing partners, what other nations call gigolos. No more.

British Rail served afternoon teas in its dining cars. Now this is served only on InterCity Pullman trains: hot toasted teacakes, sandwiches, good pastries and fruitcake.

British Airways does a first-class set tea: reception sandwiches containing dolcelatte cheese and celery, prawn mayonnaise; brown bridge rolls filled with smoked salmon and horseradish; light fruit scones Tiptree's strawberry jam and clotted cream; tea breads, carrot cake and chocolate hazelnut gateau — but then it costs an extra £20 an hour to fly first-class.

Around the land there are places that have achieved fame for provision of afternoon tea and retained this:

The Pump Room in Bath, home of Cobb's original Bath bun. There is a pleasing formality, music, helpful waitresses and hot toast with Gentlemen's Raisin.

The Polly Tea Rooms in Marlborough should not be missed: great home-baked cakes, wonderful speciality ice-creams with many sauces.

Betty's Tea Rooms in Harrogate are famed throughout the country. Pert young waitresses dressed in black and white and casual with it, serve you rich fruitcake with Wensleydale cheese. Cakes are of high quality but tea is a meal that requires a bit of maturity in the service.

The Willow Tea Room in Sauchiehall Street, Glasgow, is a matter-of-fact sort of establishment on the first floor above a shop: you are expected to know the difference between muffins, scones, crumpets and pancakes and at which times these are served. A good place to go when you have been there a few times.

Within a mile of Piccadilly Circus in London, the following establishments are considered the market leaders:

Ritz Hotel, Piccadilly. There is a long passage from the main entrance in Arlington Street to the stunningly beautiful restaurant overlooking Green Park, west of the hotel. Half-way down this passage is the Palm Court: a raised area of Empire kitch, replete with bronze candelabra, gilded angels climbing pillars, mirrors,

and spring French women by their beds — leggins and T-shirts — from the partner stores, their fashion statements (okta) and their classics (B. Accessories from Fogal Prada, Vuitton, Hermès and They will spring on a winter coat, and then then gone discount boutique selling last autelcourt, where a charl sultan costs as FF 2000 (£30).

most British women on occasion, compounding spread Britain make do with a quick Marks & Spencer for casual wear, Isabel and, a bier for department stores, Frenchwoman spends thinking about item before buying it, so men."

Pasco's husband says that when he first Paris as a bank it was used to a pink and linen suits, at them to be constantly ed and pressed against him.

will never see a scoupe a Parisian's teap a polished shoe. There ably more dry-cashmere services in Paris han in the whole of "he says.

there is the French. The French can wear a jeans without their chafing together. They h overweight, but not only, their backs are straight. They do not sweat as jogging as weight training are just masters of it.

Do not be deluded by the woman going India du Chocolat; she as ly eaten nothing all day. France we say that the woman prefers to money on her gards, and home rather than herself," says Mie

nd. Actually, according survey it is too spend our money a nish wash more than country in Europe. French wash less. So outer layers come on, as British do ha

dvantages.

TEA

drapes, soft pale carpeting and delicate tables for two no bigger than a nouvelle cuisine platter. Also palms.

Afternoon tea daily, 3-6pm, £12.95 (071-493 6020).

Fortnum & Mason

Piccadilly
There are three restaurants, the most accessible up a few steps at the southern end of this shop, in which you will find more handsome jars of desirous fruit in liqueur, lemon curd and bespoke mayonnaise than anywhere in town; also an outstanding display of cheeses.

The carpet is green, looks like Astroturf. The table-tops are of yellow marble, the chairs not pretty nor particularly comfortable.

Mrs Rowe, the manageress, has been there for seven years, and is motherly.

A folder on each table holds the bill, which the waitress annotates with your order. Only the waitress who served you can take this and your money when you want to leave.

This is à la carte service: you can look at the display of cakes on the counter but have to remember that the prices marked thereon are for take-away. Sacher torte (absolutely first-class) costs 70p — but £1.10 if you eat it on the premises. A small pot of whipped cream sets you back another 50p.

Best-selling cake is strawberry tart. Scones, which seemed rather flat and hard, are served with Fortnum's own (or own label) jam and clotted or whipped cream. Sandwiches are available but substantial — like roast beef and horseradish, which would not be my first choice for a minor meal.

Dress is smart/casual. Average spend is about £6.50. Set afternoon teas (£8.95) are also available in this store 3.5-20pm (071-734 8040).

The Waldorf
Aldwych

His afternoon tea dances Fridays, Saturdays and Sundays in the stunning Palm Court at £19.50. Sandwiches, scones and clotted cream, pastries and cake... and, while the age of the punters is considerably greater than elsewhere, dancing classes have outings here and introduce an element of youth and jollity.

Afternoon tea Mon-Fri, £12.50; Sat-Sun afternoon tea dances, £19.50; 3.30-6.30pm (071-836 2400).

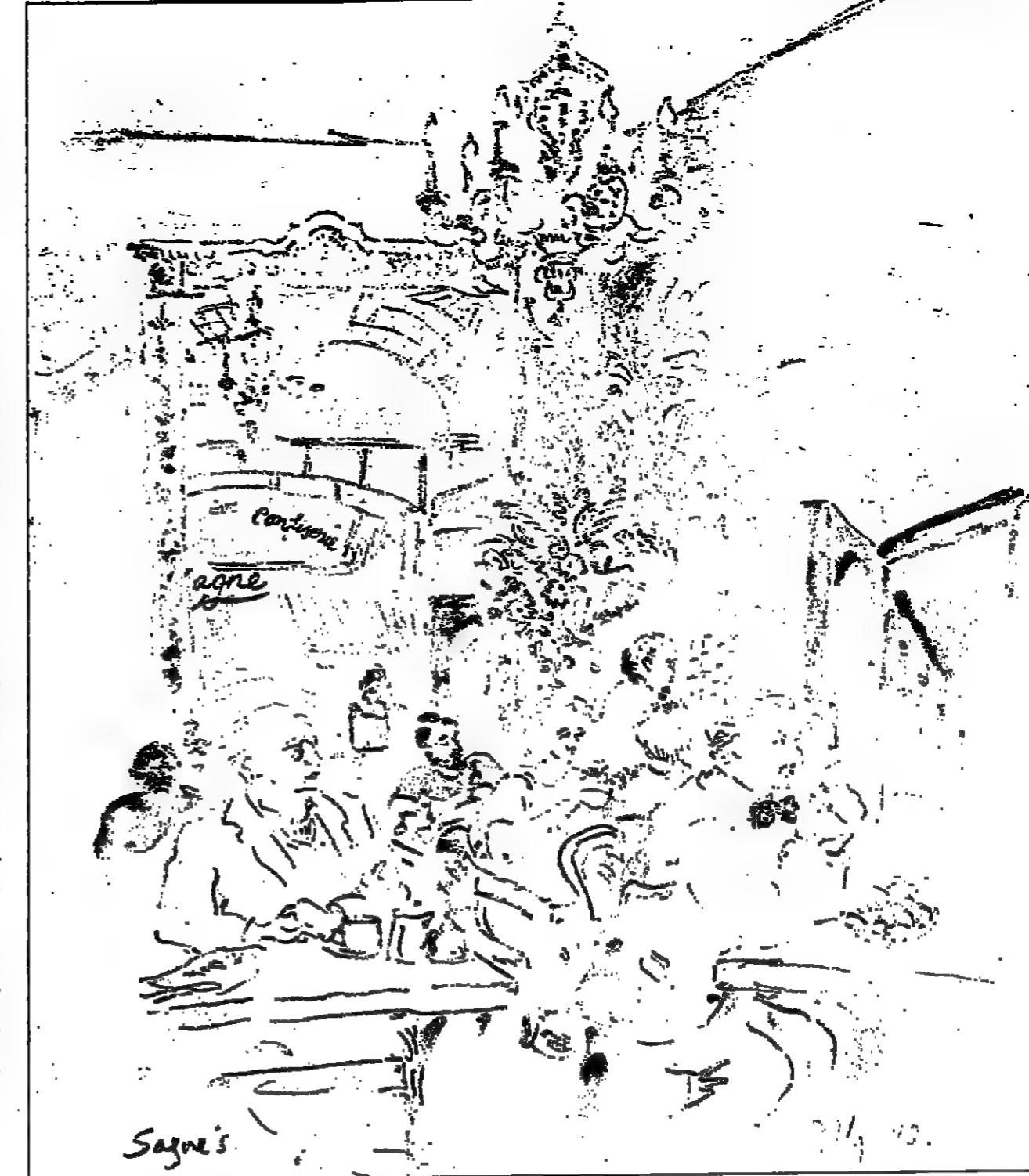
Patisserie Valerie

Old Compton Street

Has sensational cakes in the window, also soft, welcoming doughnuts shining with lemon fondant and bulging with cream. "a secret recipe, a lighter form of crème patissière," says the eldest of the three brothers who own the place.

There is a dress code: no jeans or trainers, though they do not enforce this; however,

The mass of people rucking



at the cake counter inside the door consists of some trying to purchase, others queuing for a table in the cafe at the back, the rest attempting to pay their bills and leave the premises. If they were not so steadily full, some would sit down and think up a better system.

Pat Val has been thriving since 1926, is now owned by the Scalzini from northern Sicily. The clientele is predominantly well-dressed, young, artistic/tourist. There's a noticeboard by the entrance wherein you can leave messages for friends who have been mislaid since you met on the trans-Siberian express.

Seating for about 45, two smoking tables at the back: plain chairs, £1 for a pot of tea, cakes £1.25 to £1.85 and baskets of Hero jams on the table to go with your brioche and croissant. No scones. "This is Soho".

The best-selling cake is Black

Forest — home-made, as are all cakes, with best butter and real chocolate and kirsch and a big chocolate rose. There are slices of mille-feuilles with fresh cream and strawberries, a quite excellent fruitcake glazed with thin lemon fondant.

Waitresses are predominantly scatty and happy and obliging and serve customers in no particular order. Average spend is £3.50 a head.

Open Mon-Fri 8am-8pm; Sat 8am-7pm, Sun 10am-5.30pm (071-437 3466).

Maison Bertaux

Greek Street

A woman known as "Madame" who wears Dr Scholl sandals ran this for many decades, but sold out a few years ago to a young actress called Michelle. It prospers. There are three tables on the pavement, another three downstairs, opposite the counter — usually one or two of these supporting wedding

cakes for collection or trays of pastries.

Upstairs there is room for 30 and a wondrously attractive smell of baking cheese suffuses the premises — they do many kinds of savoury croissant.

The cakes are handsome, although at £2.20 for a slice of chocolate cake (without cream), expensive for the area.

The room upstairs is used by out-of-work actresses composing letters to producers, Chinese gamblers examining the racing pages, and champagne socialists seriously enjoying their calorific cakes. The camaraderie of Pat Val is missing, as is the feeling that you are getting great value for money, but the quality is excellent. The china is ordinary.

Open seven days a week, 9am-5pm (071-437 6007).

Maison Sagnes

Marylebone High Street

Has been in the same hands for 40 years, serves wonderful

cakes, is the quintessential patisserie. A shop window full of cakes and marzipan pigs and pastries; a counter where all this is reinforced with home-made chocolates.

There are dozen tables with bentwood chairs, where regulars attend five-and-a-half days a week.

Mont Blancs — macaroon bases with strands of purled sweet glazed chestnuts and whipped cream, palmiers, all the classics are there, and as they will not cut up the almond tart, which is spectacular, you have to buy one (£4), have a slice with your tea and take the rest home in a pretty cardboard box tied with a ribbon.

After 4.30pm, as people vacate their places, the staff put chairs on top of the tables to show that they are closing and in charge. The staff are not, how shall we put this, warm.

Open Mon-Fri 9am-5pm, Sat 9am-1pm (071-935 6240).

From the foot-carriers of ancient Greece to the pavement pounders of today, running has been a sport fit for all

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SPORTING LIFE

"top-of-the-world" feeling generated by running that he prefers to run every evening after work and before drinking. "I can really enjoy myself if I've run," he says. "Everything is enhanced."

Like several of his contemporaries, Mr Booth encounters a jittery, uptight feeling if he

doesn't run. Like a drug, it becomes so habit-forming that it must be accommodated, be it a ten-minute jog or a 20-mile run over Richmond Park and Wimbledon Common from his home in Putney.

So many people run nowadays that no one need feel as conspicuous as Mr Booth did 25 years ago, when he first went out wearing a pair of Woolworth's plimsolls. Shoes have, thankfully, become more sophisticated but athletics is

still one of the cheapest sports.

For the committed runner, heavy milages have led to the sport becoming more expensive, as shoes wear out all too quickly. It is no good persevering with worn shoes — your feet will take the toll. Achilles tendons will snap, arches will hurt and muscles will strain, if the runner does not renew his footwear regularly.

The one advantage that runners have over other sportsmen is that they can exercise on any

firm ground, as long as it is not down a motorway or, in the dark, down unfamiliar roads with cambers that can cause injuries. Yielding surfaces such as those found on fields, commons and paths are best.

The boom probably started in the US, when the masses took to Central Park in their vests, shorts and track-suits.

Now office workers in most big cities think nothing of spending their lunch hours striding out instead of in the pub. Or, if they are anything like Mr Booth, doing both.

NICK HARLING



Fleet of foot: running has become an addiction for many

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lege Card these short breaks are even more easily available than you could possibly imagine. When you collect only seven tokens from The Times (the first of which is printed below), a further six tokens will appear next week; you will be entitled to a personalised Privilege Card. This enables you to enjoy a 25

per cent discount on a double-room rate plus full English breakfast at any of the participating Johansens Hotels.

Also, as a Times reader, each hotel will be offering you an exclusive extra to your stay. This could be a delicious meal for two with wine; a free flying lesson for those with a

real taste for adventure; a pleasure flight by light aircraft; champagne, fruit, flowers and chocolates in your room for your arrival; reflexology, aromatherapy, facial and massage for a healthy stay and much more.

For a detailed look at the hotels and what they are offering, The Times features today a complete list

of the 180 participating inn country houses and hotels. This includes, for example, Bothwick Castle, a favourite of Sir Walter Scott; the Riverside Country House Hotel, in Derbyshire; and Parkhill Hotel in the New Forest.

Full details of how to apply will appear next Saturday.

SOUTH-WEST

AVON

Apsley House Hotel. Newbridge, Bath, BA1 3PT. (025 336966). Usual rate: £90. Offer rate: £67.50. Average dinner: £18.50. Offer not available Christmas and New Year. This Georgian hotel, said to have been built for the Duke of Wellington is just five minutes from the centre of Bath, and offers a bottle of champagne and tickets to the Bath tour, the Roman Baths and museum of costumes.

The Compass Inn. Tornarton, Nr Badminton, GL9 1JB. (0454 218242). Usual rate: £75. Offer rate: £56.25. Average dinner: £15. This 16th century coaching inn serves real ales and country wines and offers either a skid pan course for one with cars and tuition or a candle-lit champagne dinner for two on the second night. Skidpan only available on Saturdays, meal offer available all week.

Combe Grove Manor Hotel and Country Club. Brackenbury Hill, Monkton Combe, Bath, BA2 7HS. (0225 834644). Usual rate: £127.50. Offer rate: £95.63. Average dinner price £25. Offer not available Christmas, New Year or Easter. Combe Grove Manor is set in over 60 acres of gardens and woodland and offers either beauty treatments for example a full aromatherapy body treatment; or swimming, tennis coaching or a personal fitness programme with a massage; or swimming and/or tennis coaching and/or a personal fitness programme.

Thornbury Castle. Thornbury, BS12 1HH. (0452 281182). Usual rate: £137.90. Offer rate: £103.43. Average dinner: £31.50. Not available 24 December to 4 January or 14 February and 3-12 March inclusive. Usual rate increases on 8 March to £147.90. Winner of the Johansens 1992 Value for Money Award. Thornbury Castle is a real castle and offers A chauffeur driven car for a half-day trip to a Cotswold village, the Georgian city of Bath, Cheltenham or the Wye Valley.

Hutton Court. Church Lane, Hutton, BS24 9SN. (0934 814343). Usual rate: £75. Offer rate: £56.25. Average dinner: £17.50. Not available 24-30 December.

Hutton Court dates back to Norman times. The restaurant has an unusual vaulted ceiling. The hotel offers a choice of Garden Centre vouchers, Christopher Piper's wines: WPA membership and 1993 Game Fair tickets; Chew Valley trout fishing; or horse riding on the Mendips.

CORNWALL

The Garrack Hotel. Burthill Lane, St Ives, TR26 3AA. (0736 796199). Usual rate: £75. Offer rate: £56.25. Average dinner: £15. Offer not available Christmas, New Year and Easter. This hotel has views over Porthmeor Beach and St Ives bay offers a tour of West Cornwall's hidden and ancient sites with lunch or flight around Lands End by air.

The Jubilee Inn. Pelynt, Nr Looe, PL13 2JZ. (0503 220312). Usual rate: £56. Offer rate: £42. Average dinner: £15. Offer not available Christmas, New Year or Easter.

This inn dates back to the 16th century and offers Privilege card holders one night's room and breakfast for two people free of charge.

The Lugger Hotel. Portloe, Truro, TR2 5RD. (0872 501322). Usual rate: £98. Offer price: £73.50. Average dinner: £20. £20 each person deposit required when confirming reservation. Hotel closed 1st December 1992 until 11th February 1993.

This hotel was a former smugglers' haunt and offers one year's "transferable"

membership of the National Trust together with a Cornish shrub to enjoy in your garden.

St Martin's Hotel. St Martin's, Isles of Scilly, TR25 0QW. (0720 22092). Usual rate: £112. Offer rate: £84. Average dinner: £22. Available throughout October 1992 and April 1993. Hotel closed 1st November 1992 to 31st March 1993.

This hotel on the island, St Martin's overlooks Tean Sound and offers return launch transfers from heliport to St Martin's, snorkelling with Atlantic seals, wet suits, snorkels, flippers and instructor all provided.

Higher Faugan Country House Hotel. Newlyn, Penzance, TR18 5NS. (0736 62076). Usual rate: £86. Offer rate: £64.50. Average dinner: £29. Not available Christmas, New Year and Easter. Must be pre-booked and agreed in writing.

A country house set in 10 acres overlooking Penzance and Mount Bay offers champagne on arrival plus either a trial flying lesson for one; a scenic flight for two, subject to availability; or dinner for two.

Trebrea Lodge. Trelane, Trelane, PL34 0HR. (0840 770410). Usual rate: £60. Offer rate: £45. Average dinner: £13.75. To exclude Christmas, New Year and Easter.

A grade II listed house built in the 14th century on the north Cornish coast offers a £50 deduction from the cost of additional nights stay.

DEVON

The Arundell Arms Hotel. Lifton, Devon PL16 0AA. (0566 784666). Usual rate: £86. Offer rate: £64.50. Average dinner price £23.75. Offer not available Christmas and Easter.

A 250-year-old coaching inn with 20 miles of private waters on the River Tamar offers one day's fishing for rainbow trout on the hotel's private lake with an hour's tuition and tackle included or table d'hôte dinner on first night.

Easton Court Hotel. Easton Cross, Chagford, TQ13 8JL. (0647 433469). Usual rate: £76. Offer rate: £57. Average dinner: £22. Not available Christmas, Easter or bank holidays.

The hotel is a grade II listed thatched Tudor house set in Devon countryside and offers £20 off standard price of five course dinner per couple each night (minimum two nights); plus a bottle of wine on first night worth £10.

Halmston Manor. Bishop's Tawton, Barnstaple, EX32 0EA. (0271 830321). Usual rate: £80. Offer rate: £60. Average dinner £27.50. Set in 200 acres of rolling countryside, with a 16th century wood panelled dining room, the hotel offers either walked up rough shooting for one person for one day; deer stalking for one person (red, roe or fallow deer); free salmon fishing day on River Taw for two persons (1st March onwards).

Holne Chase Hotel. Ashburton, TQ13 7NS. (0363 471). Usual rate: £123. Offer rate: £92.50. Average dinner: £17.50. Booking to be confirmed in writing.

Holne Chase was once a hunting estate and dates from the 11th century. The hotel offers a Holne Chase planter, crafted in their private workshops using reclaimed timber.

Hotel Riviera. The Esplanade, Sidmouth, EX10 8AY. (0395 515301). Usual rate: £126. Offer rate: £94.50. Average dinner: £18.50. Not available Christmas, New Year and Easter.

The hotel is positioned at the centre of the esplanade overlooking the bay and offers champagne, fruit and flowers on arrival together with concessionary green fees at Sidmouth Golf Club.

The Marine Hotel. Cliff Road, Salcombe, TQ8 8JH. (054 584 4444). Usual rate: £122. Offer rate: £91.50. Average dinner: £22.

Good day, Constable

Not the policeman, but the painter — and where better to view his landscapes than from a good hotel?

As soft white clouds parted to reveal a huge pale blue sky, and sunlight illuminated the gentle landscape, there was little doubt that this was Constable Country. The artist was born in Suffolk in the picturesque village of East Bergholt, where, nearby, Willy Lott's cottage still stands next to Flatford Mill, a scene as beautiful today as it looks on canvas in *The Haywain*.

But Suffolk is a county abundant in history, and the centuries-old halls that dot the region have their own stories to tell. They also now provide magnificent accommodation, and Seckford Hall, about half an hour's drive northeast of Flatford, at Woodbridge, is one of the most beautiful.

The Tudor mansion, set in 34 acres of lawns, manicured gardens and pasture, is thought to have been built between 1541 and 1550. It stands grandly, at the end of a topiary-lined driveway, warm and welcoming, still with its original dark carved beams and paneling, minstrel's gallery, carefully chosen antiques and an owner who has called it home for 42 years.

Michael Bunn's parents bought Seckford Hall in 1950, running it in their retirement as a seven-room hotel. Michael took over in 1965 and, with his wife Christine, has sensitively expanded and tastefully restored the main building and adjacent granary, stables and farmer's cottage to provide 34 luxury rooms, an indoor swimming pool, spa and gymnasium. Club restaurant and banqueting hall.

The main building also houses a Tudor bar, Great Hall and an à la carte restaurant which boasts an informative list of wines numbering more than 80, and does lobster as its specialty (to whet your appetite, you can view their curious bodies in a glass aquarium in the foyer before enjoying them on your plate,

Not available Christmas, New Year and Easter.

Fresh fish and seafood abound in this waterfront setting, the hotel offers either, fresh water trout fishing or clay pigeon shooting at Barberry Down.

Moo View Hotel. Vale Down, Lydford, EX20 4BB. (082 282 220). Usual rate: £70. Offer rate: £52.50. Average dinner: £15.

Offer not available Christmas and New Year. Special inclusive packages available for houseparties over this period.

Set on the edge of Dartmoor, guests can walk straight onto the moors from the garden of this Victorian house.

furnished in period style with many antiques. The hotel offers either, drinks to the value of £50 during your stay or picnic lunch hampers and wine to the value of £50, ideal for Dartmoor walks.

The Osborne Hotel. Hesketh Crescent, Torquay, TQ1 2LL. (0803 213311).

Usual price: £110. Offer price: £80. Average dinner: £21.50.

Offer unavailable Christmas and New Year. Special inclusive packages available for houseparties over this period.

Set on the edge of Dartmoor, guests can walk straight onto the moors from the garden of this Victorian house.

furnished in period style with many antiques. The hotel offers either, drinks to the value of £50 during your stay or picnic lunch hampers and wine to the value of £50, ideal for Dartmoor walks.

Orstone Manor Hotel. Rockhouse Lane, Maidencombe, Torquay, TQ1 4SX. (0803 328098).

Usual rate: £90. Offer rate: £67.50. Average dinner: £22.50.

Offer not available at Christmas or New Year.

Orstone Manor was a Georgian country lodge, built in the 19th century. The hotel offers automatic upgrading to one of our large

"Powderham" sea facing rooms without the usual £15 per night supplement for the first two nights.

The Osborne Hotel. Hesketh Crescent, Torquay, TQ1 2LL. (0803 213311).

Usual price: £110. Offer price: £80. Average dinner: £21.50.

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The Osborne Hotel. Cliff Road, Salcombe, TQ8 8JH. (054 584 4444).

Usual rate: £122. Offer rate: £91.50. Average dinner: £22.

The Osborne Hotel offers free Christmas hampers



Sleeping in style: five of the rooms at Seckford Hall have carved four-posters

there are championship courses nearby at Woodbridge, Aldeburgh and Purdis Heath, Ipswich.

Beyond Seckford, walking and birdwatching are popular pastimes in the Suffolk coastal district. The stingley beach near Aldeburgh and the RSPB bird sanctuary at Minsmere are particularly recommended.

With all that water, boating is another obvious activity; you can take a river cruise, with commentary, from Felixstowe to Ipswich, or simply walk

and herb centre. The 1898 Bruisyard St Peter dry white was an excellent accompaniment to our lobster.

LISA HUDSON

Seckford Hall's special offer

is 25 per cent of the usual

tariff for a double/twin room

for two people, including a full

English breakfast (now

£67.50-£72.50), and an exclu-

sive extra offer comprising:

one bottle of Charles Ellner

brut champagne, a dozen

roses, and a box of handmade

chocolates (£39.75).

DORSET

Beedleas. 17 Poole Rd, Wimborne Minster, BH21 1QA. (0202 841684). Usual rate: £91. Offer rate: £68.25. Average dinner price: £15.50. Hotel closed from December 24 until February 1, 1993. Please quote: Johansens offer when booking.

This Georgian Grade I listed hotel, within five minutes of the historic town of Wimborne Minster, offers a half day's sailing in Poole Harbour and Bay on a 23ft skippered sailing cruise (for two people); or fine wine/champagne to the value of £50.

The Manor Hotel. Wet Bedington, Dorchester DT2 9DF. (0308 897116). Usual price: £71. Offer price: £53.25. Average dinner: £14.95.

This hotel, part of which is featured in the *Domesday*

3DS.

Usual rate: £128. Offer rate:

£96. Average dinner: £28.50.

Offer not available Christmas and Easter. Usual rate: £144.

Set in its own sheltered bay with acres of National Trust coastline, fresh crabs and lobsters are specialties, the hotel offers a Dartmoor safari by Landrover.

Tytherleigh Court Hotel.</

Maiden Newton House,
Maiden Newton, DT2 0AA.
(0300 20336).
Usual price: £86. Offer rate:
£64.50. Average dinner: £25.
Not available Christmas, New
Year or Easter.

This Elizabethan gothic
country house hotel in rural
Dorset offers a cookery lesson
to include preparation and
cooking of starter and
pudding drawn from the
evenings dinner menu.

SOMERSET

Daneswood House Hotel,
Cuck Hill, Shapwick, Nr
Winscombe, BS25 1RD.
(0934 843145).
Usual rate: £77.50. Offer rate:
£58.13. Average dinner price:
£18.

This Edwardian country
house hotel set in the heart of
Lendip hills offers one hour
shooting lesson for two
people, tuition by a CPSA
qualified instructor, gun hire
and 50 shots. Shooting not
available at Christmas, New
Year, Easter or Sunday
morning.

Oaklands House, 8 Palmer
Street, South Petherton,
TA13 5DB. (040 40272).
Usual rate: £75. Offer rate:
£56.25. Average dinner:
£19.50. Offer not available
19th December to 16th
January 1993.

This hotel is a grade II listed
Georgian town house, near
the coast and local National
Trust properties and offers
a hamper of Somerset goodies
including Somerset Royal
Cider Brandy and cider, local
cheese and homemade
marmalade.

**Periton Park Country House
Hotel, Middlecombe,**
Exmoor, Nr Minehead,
TA24 8SW. (0643 706885).
Usual rate: £88. Offer rate:
£66. Average dinner: £19. Not
available Christmas, New
Year or Easter.

This hotel offers either a day
visit to a health farm; six
hours escorted riding; half a
day's clay pigeon shoot or a
day's golf (choice of two
courses).

Tarr Steps Hotel,
Hawkinge, Duvelton, TA22
OPY. (0643 385293).
Usual price: £76. Offer price:
£57. Average dinner: £21.50.
Not available Christmas and
New Year.

A former Georgian rectory in
the beautiful Barle Valley
offering
a morning's clay pigeon
shooting to include 100 free
cartridges, free gun hire, free
tuition.

Charlton House Hotel,
Charlton Road, Shepton
Mallet, BA4 4PR. (0749
342008).
Usual rate: £90. Offer rate:
£67.50. Average dinner: £20.
Not available Christmas and
New Year. Applicants must
state "Times offer" when
making booking.
This converted 17th century
manor house in six acres of
lawns, woods and gardens
and offers each of the two
guests wine/champagnes to
the price of £50 from a
standard wine list.

WILTSHIRE

Whately Manor, Easton
Grey, Malmesbury, SN16
0RB. (0666 822888).
Usual rate: £116. Offer rate:
£87. Average dinner: £27.50.
Special Christmas package
available at 25% discount.
Minimum stay 3 nights over
Easter weekend.

A grade II listed manor set in
1.2 acres of grounds offering
either two three course
dinners with coffee or a £50
voucher redeemable at The
Wine Warehouse in Tisbury.

Bishopstrow House,
Warminster, BA12 9HH.
(0985 212312).
Usual rate: £196. Offer rate:
£147. Average dinner: £31.
Excluding Christmas, New
Year and Easter.

This Georgian mansion was
built in 1817 and offers
entrance to Longleat for two
with guide book and a bottle
of Blandy's 10 year old
madeira plus Reid's Hotel —
Jewel of the Atlantic
Centenary book.

MIDLANDS**BEDFORDSHIRE**

Woodlands Manor, Green
Lane, Ciapham, MK41 0QP.
(0234 365281).
Usual rate: £79. Offer rate:
£50.25. Average dinner: £23.
Not available at Christmas or
New Year.

A Victorian manor house set
in several acres of grounds
close to the Bunyan Museum
and Woburn Abbey, offers
two tickets to Woburn the
Stables for a jazz or popular
concert, a half bottle of
champagne and a car
provided to and from the
venue.

DERBYSHIRE

**Riber Hall, Matlock, DE4
5JL.** (0629 532795).
Usual rate: £107. Offer rate:
£80.25. Average dinner: £28.

Not available at Christmas or
Easter.
A listed historical building,
much of which is Elizabethan,
the hotel offers a clay pigeon
shooting lesson for two people
(total 100 clays).

**Riverside Country House
Hotel, Ashford on the Water,**
Bakewell, DE45 1QF. (0629
814275).
Usual rate: £109. Offer rate:
£81.75. Average dinner: £29.
Not available at Christmas and
New Year.

Set in the Peak District
National Park this ivy clad
Georgian mansion bounded
by gardens and river frontage
offers a selection of Derbyshire
cheeses produced in the Dales
and a hallmark silver cheese knife
crafted by the Sheffield
"Masters".

**The Croft Country House
Hotel, Great Langstone,**
Bakewell, DE45 1TF. (0629
640278).
Usual price: £75. Offer price:
£56.25. Average dinner:
£18.50. Not available
Christmas, New Year and
Easter.

The hotel, a Victorian house,
offers a guided day tour of the
towns and villages of the Peak
District National Park or a
gift of Nottingham lace.

Riber Hall, Derbyshire: clay pigeon shooting on offer

GLoucestershire

Allt-yr-Ynys Country Hotel,
Walterstone, Hereford, HR2
0DU. (0873 890307).
Usual rate: £70. Offer rate:
£52.50. Not available
December.

A fine Georgian house in
Paladian style offers a
chauffeur driven car to take
The Times guests to Sir Peter
Scott's Wild Fowl Trust and to
Slad, Cider with Rosie village
on a half day tour. Reserve car
when booking.

Corse Lawn House Hotel,
Corse Lawn, Nr Teversal,
GL19 4LZ. (0452 780771).
Usual rate: £90. Offer rate:
£67.50. Average dinner:
£23.50.

This Queen Anne listed
building overlooking the
village green offers a bottle of
Denis Hine special selection
Cognac, the proprietor's own
blend.

Manor House Hotel, High
Street, Moreton in Marsh,
GL56 0LJ. (0608 50501).
£22.50. Not available 24-28
December.

A fine Georgian house in
Paladian style offers a
chauffeur driven car to take
The Times guests to Sir Peter
Scott's Wild Fowl Trust and to
Slad, Cider with Rosie village
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Pengethley Manor Hotel,
Pengethley Park, Ross-on-Wye,
HR9 6LL. (0989 872111).
Usual rate: £14.00. Offer rate:
£8.50. Average dinner:
£21.00. Not available
Christmas or New Year.

The house was rebuilt as a
Georgian manor house in
1860.

Seymour House Hotel, High
Street, Chipping Campden,
GL55 6AH. (0386 840429).
Usual rate: £90.80. Offer rate:
£68.10. Average dinner:
£17.60. Not available at
Christmas, Easter or 9-11
April inclusive.

Manor House Hotel, High
Street, Moreton in Marsh,
GL56 0LJ. (0608 50501).
£22.50. Not available 24-28
December.

A manor house standing in
50 acres dating back to the
14th century. The hotel offers a
Charingworth dinner on the
second night of the stay for 2
people. Dinner is three
courses with coffee included.

HEREFORDSHIRE

Allt-yr-Ynys Country Hotel,
Walterstone, Hereford, HR2
0DU. (0873 890307).
Usual rate: £70. Offer rate:
£52.50. Not available
December.

Quot Times Johansens offer
when booking. Not available
24 to 26 or 31 December.

This hotel dating back to
1550 offers two introductory
courses to sporting clay
pigeon shooting, 25 clays,
guns and cartridges provided.

Normanton Park Hotel,
South Shore, Rutland Water,
Normanton Park, Nr
Oakham, LE15 7RP. (0780
720315).
£52.13. Average dinner:
£18.00. Not available 24-27
and 31 December inclusive.

A grade II listed, restored
Georgian house close to the
shore of Rutland Water

offers either a Rutland water
leisure pass to the butterfly
centre, bird hides, cycle hire
and special picnic, a heritage
package, two tickets to Belvoir
Castle and Burghley House

and special picnic for two
people. Dinner is three
courses with coffee included.

Pengethley Manor Hotel,
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Quot Times Johansens

Pampering the person

**Think positive, and feel beautiful,
relaxed and satisfied in an
idyllic country-house setting**

like a facial, a few lengths in the pool, a bit of a sauna in a towelling robe, a relapse into the Jacuzzi and an hour of reflexology on your feet to make you think beautiful thoughts and feel beautiful feelings. Aromatherapy, hydrotherapy, Thalgo balneotherapy... are all available at Sopwell House — as well as the many other luxuries you expect from a country hotel.

Although all this sounds very girly it is not exclusively so. The corridors leading to Sopwell House's Country Club and Spa are lined with pictures of football teams (Bacchus, Manchester United) and

letters of appreciation from their managers.

Along with the hairdressing and leg-waxing there is a fully equipped gym, a sauna and a snooker room.

The owner, Abraham Bejerman, is a big football aficionado,

and boasts that the teams which stay here before big matches always win.

There are two restaurants, the Magnolia Conservatory (the conservatory was built after the magnolias were grown, which leads to some interesting trunks-going-through-the-roof scenarios)

Yes madame! Certainly. An enormous slice of Paris Brest. Yes madame, that's choux pastry, cream, crème pâtissière, raspberries and chocolate...

Eleven acres of pretty grounds allow for gentle exercise too — this used to be Lord Mountbatten's country home, and legend has it that the King of Greece proposed to Princess Alice, the Duke of Edinburgh's mother, in these gardens (also in those days they didn't have all the amenities that Sopwell now offers). Perhaps there is simply something in the air around St Albans.

£54.75. Average dinner: £12.50. Not available Christmas and New Year or Bank Holidays. Deposit of £50 per person required. An 18th century hotel standing above the River Derwent, convenient for the city of York, offers shopping in York with £50 worth of vouchers for Fenwicks York Store.

Thornton Watlass Hall, Ripon, HG4 4AS. (0677 422803).

Usual rate: £104. Offer rate: £78. Average dinner: £29. Not available Christmas and New Year.

The mainly Jacobean,

Thornton Watlass Hall is set in five acres on the edge of the Yorkshire Dales and offers a sightseeing tour of the Yorkshire Dales with lunch in a chauffer driven Rolls Royce or a trip to York, sightseeing in a chauffer driven Rolls Royce, plus horseriding for two people.

MARTIN BEDDALL

Wrea Head Country House Hotel, Scalby, Scarborough, YO13 0PB. (0723 378211).

Usual rate: £90. Offer rate: £67.50. Average dinner: £19.95. Not available Christmas and New Year.

Eleven acres of pretty

grounds allow for gentle exercise too — this used to be Lord Mountbatten's country home, and legend has it that the King of Greece proposed to Princess Alice, the Duke of Edinburgh's mother, in these gardens (also in those days they didn't have all the amenities that Sopwell now offers). Perhaps there is simply something in the air around St Albans.

BUCKS

The Swan Diplomat, Streatley on Thames, RG8 9HR. (0491 873737).

Usual rate: £131. Offer rate: £98.25. Average dinner: £23. Not available Christmas and New Year.

Situated on the banks of the River Thames, the hotel two

bottles of award winning Chiltern Valley fine English wines and a personal guided tour of the vineyard followed by a tasting.

THE SOUTH

BERKSHIRE

The Swan, Market Place, Southwold, IP18 6EG. (0502 722186).

Usual rate: £82.00. Offer rate: £61.50. Average dinner: £16.50. Not available 23 December-3 January and 9-11 April 1993 inclusive.

Set in the market place of this Suffolk town, The Swan offers either a bottle of Adnams Champagne and a signed copy of *Puligny-Montrachet* by Simon Lofus or an exclusive silk tie, plus a basket of jams and pickles handmade for The Swan.

Bradfield House, Bradfield Combust, Bury St Edmunds, IP30 0LR. (0284 386301).

Usual rate: £65. Offer rate: £48.75. Average dinner: £20. Hotel closed Christmas week. Please state on booking that you intend to use special privilege card.

This four bedroomed 17th century country house with antique furniture and fireplace, old French wood burning stove and vase of fresh flowers offers a three course dinner for two in the award winning restaurant, to include two half bottles of vintage white and red wine.

WARRICKSHIRE

Nuthurst Grange Country House Hotel & Restaurant, Hockley Heath, B94 5NL. (0564 733972).

Usual price: £59. Offer price: £74.25. Average dinner: £20. £36.50.

Chef-patron David Randolph and his team have won many accolades for the hotel's imaginative menus and offer a £50 reduction from dinner bill on the evenings that dinner is taken in accordance with conditions.

WEST MIDLANDS

New Hall, Wabney Road, Sutton Coldfield, B76 8QX. (021-378 2442).

Usual rate: £90. Offer rate: £67.50. Average dinner: £24.95. Not available Christmas and New Year. Only available Friday-Sunday inclusive.

Reputedly the oldest fully moated manor house in England, this hotel offers a side of New Hall smoked salmon on departure per couple, plus a bottle of champagne in your room on arrival and complimentary tickets to visit Warwick Castle and grounds.

Norton Place Hotel, 180 Lifford Lane, Kings Norton, B30 3NT. (021 433 5567).

Usual rate: £122.00. Offer rate: £91.50. Average dinner: £18.95. Excluding Motor Show at the NEC from the 20 October to 1 November period and Christmas and New Year.

This hotel has interiors designed by the same crafts people responsible for the decoration of the Palace of Brunel and offers a guided tour of the reserve cars and art gallery, and commemorative book of *The Patriotic Collection*: plus a trip in a vintage car with champagne.

THE NORTH

CHESHIRE

Nunsmere Hall Hotel, Tarporley Road, Sandiway, CW8 2ES. (0606 889100).

Usual rate: £145. Offer rate: £108.75. Average dinner: £28.50. Not available Christmas and New Year. The hotel is surrounded on three sides by a lake, and offers two 18 hole rounds of golf at nearby Portal Golf Club.

Shrigley Hall Hotel Golf and Country Club, Pott Shrigley, Macclesfield, SK10 5SB. (0625 575757).

Usual rate: £100. Offer rate: £75. Average dinner: £19.50. Offer not available 5 December-4 January 1993.

A country house set in 262 acres of grounds on the edge of the Peak District. The hotel offers a dinner and dance on the Saturday night in the Oakridge Restaurant, a bottle of champagne, full use of the Country Club and a manicure with resident beautician. The offer also includes one round of golf with a supplementary round at a special rate of £15.00.

Stanneylands Hotel, Stanneylands Road, Wilmslow, SK9 4EY. (0625 525275).

Usual rate: £106. Offer rate: £79.50. Average dinner: £25. Not available 14 December to 1 January.

A country house set in several acres close to Cheshire or the Peak District, the hotel offers two tickets to visit the National Trust's award winning museum in the Textile Industry, Quarry Bank Mill, lunch and mill woven cotton gifts included.

CUMBRIA

Dale Head Hall Hotel, Thirlmere, Keswick, CA12 4TN. (07687 72478).

Usual rate: £104. Offer rate: £78. Not available Christmas.

Etrop Grange Hotel, Manchester: elegance near the airport, with a chauffeured car

Year or Bank Holidays.

This lakeland hotel offers either a bottle of champagne and chocolates or a free round of golf. Sunday to Thursday only, for up to six people or Bucks fizz up a local mountain for parties of 6 or over.

DURHAM

The Teesdale Hotel, Middleton-in-Teesdale, Nr Barnard Castle, DL12 0QG. (0833 40264).

Usual rate: £80. Offer rate: £60. Average dinner: £16.95. Not available Christmas and New Year. State *The Times* Johansens often when booking.

Located in the north Pennines this 17th century Teesdale Inn offers a round of golf or two and a half hours horse riding; a visit to the theatre or dinner and bottle of house wine on the second night. All visitors receive a voucher for return visit with room free, pay for food only basis.

LANCASHIRE

Mains Hall Country House Hotel, Mains Lane, Little Singleton, FY6 7LF. (0253 883 130).

Usual rate: £56. Offer rate: £42. Average dinner: £18.50. Not available Easter.

An old Cumbrian farmhouse overlooking Cross Fell, the highest peak in the Pennines offers guests staying three nights, the third night free of charge.

Wordsworth Hotel, Grasmere, LA22 9SW. (05394 35592).

Usual rate: £116. Offer rate: £87. Average dinner: £29.50. Dinner to be taken each night. Not available New

MANCHESTER

Etrop Grange, Outwood Lane, Manchester Airport, M22 5NR. (061 499 0500).

Usual rate: £106.50. Offer rate: £79.88. Average dinner: £26.50. Not available New Year's Eve. One night must be a Friday or Saturday.

The hotel offers upgrading to four poster rooms, a chauffer driven Jaguar will take you to Manchester for a shopping or sightseeing trip plus tickets to the Granada Studios Tour.

NORTH YORKSHIRE

Bilbrough Manor Country House Hotel, Bilbrough, YO2 3PH. (0937 834002).

Usual rate: £85. Offer rate: £63.75. Average dinner: £18.50. Offer not available Christmas and New Year. Situated in over 100 acres of farm and woodland, this country house is just five miles from York. It offers a ghost walk around the ancient city of York and a large dram of malt whisky on your return.

The Boar's Head Hotel, Ripley, Harrogate, HG3 3AY. (0423 771888).

Usual rate: £98. Offer rate: £73.50. Average dinner: £26.50. Reservations and credit card guarantee to reception.

The Boar's Head overlooks the cobbled market square of Ripley, one of Britain's historic estate villages and offers champagne on arrival, a tour of Ripley Castle gardens plus visits to local attractions like Jorvik centre from our finest English Oak.

Grants Hotel, Swan Road, Harrogate, HG1 2SS. (0423 560666).

Usual rate: £106.50. Offer rate: £79.88. Average dinner: £26.50. Average dinner: £19.50. Not available Christmas New Year or Easter. Easter Monday and Tuesday are available.

This Georgian house is just off the cobbled market square in the village of Middleham in the heart of the Yorkshire Dales. The hotel offers a traditional hand carved and turned Yorkshire Rosebowel created by local craftsmen from our finest English Oak.

Holbeck Hall Hotel, Seaford Road, South Cliff, Scarborough, YO11 2XX. (01723 374374).

Usual rate: £130.00. Offer rate: £97.50. Average dinner: £17.50. Not available Christmas and New Year.

A late Victorian mansion perched on top of Scarborough's South Cliff, offers either a night out at the Stephen Joseph Theatre with champagne supper or shopping day out with a £30 gift voucher, morning coffee and lunch. State when theatre tickets are required at time of booking.

Mallyan Spout Hotel, Gouthland, Nr Whitby, YO22 SAN. (0947 864836).

Usual rate: £75. Offer rate: £56.25. Average dinner: £17.50. Not available Christmas, New Year and Easter.

The hotel is named after a nearby waterfall, Mallyan Spout, close to the beautiful North York Moors National Park. The hotel offers champagne in room on arrival and one night's dinner.

Rose and Crown Hotel, Bainbridge, Wensleydale, DL8 3EE. (0969 502325).

Usual rate: £106. Offer rate: £85.50. Average dinner: £26.50. Not available Christmas and New Year.

This traditional inn retaining many original features, the hotel offers an extra nights accommodation and breakfast for each two days of holiday.

Talbot Hotel, Yorksgate, Malton, YO17 0AA. (0653 694031).

Usual rate: £73. Offer rate: £64.88. Average dinner: £19.50. Not available

THE SOUTH

BERKSHIRE

The Swan Diplomat, Streatley on Thames, RG8 9HR. (0491 873737).

Usual rate: £131. Offer rate: £98.25. Average dinner: £23. Not available Christmas and New Year.

Situated on the banks of the River Thames, the hotel two

bottles of award winning Chiltern Valley fine English wines and a personal guided tour of the vineyard followed by a tasting.

BUCKS

The Priory Hotel, 70-72 High Street, Whitchurch, Aylesbury, HP22 4JS. (0296 641239).

Usual rate: £110. Offer rate: £82.50. Not available at Christmas.

The hotel offers either an

hours personal tuition in any

riding discipline by Pauline Ricketts, day's fly-fishing, trout or an afternoon's clay pigeon shoot with the current

world champion.

NORTHUMBERLAND

Bishop Field Country House Hotel, Alendale, Nr Hexham, NE47 9EJ. (0434 683 248).

Not available over Christmas and New Year.

A 16th century converted

farm offers a free bottle of wine if dinner is taken. Also

choose from horse riding,

(weather permitting), or a trip to the Metro, Europe's largest shopping centre.

DORSET

The Carlos Hotel, East Overcliff, Bournemouth, BH1 3DN. (0202 552011).

PRIVILEGE CARD OFFER

The Montagu Arms Hotel,
Palace Lane, Beaumaris, SO42
7ZL. (0590 612324).
Usual rate: £95.50. Offer rate:
£71.92. Average dinner:
£23.90. Not available
Christmas and New Year or
Easter.

In the heart of the New Forest, the hotel offers either stay three nights including a Sunday night, the Sunday night's accommodation will be free or stay Sunday and Monday only and Sunday night will be £20 B&B (for two people).

New Park Manor, Lyndhurst Road, Brockenhurst, New Forest, SO27 7QH. (0590 23467).
Usual rate: £14. Offer rate:
£8.50. Average dinner:
£19.50. Special offer not available Christmas, New Year and Easter.

Formerly a royal hunting lodge this manor house dates back to the 17th century and offers an hour's horse riding per person plus a bottle of champagne on arrival.

Parkhill Hotel, Beaumaris Road, Lyndhurst, SO43 7FZ. (0703 282944).
Usual rate: £82. Offer rate:
£61.50. Average dinner:
£23.50. Offer not available Christmas, New Year and Easter.

Dating back to 1740, the Duke of Clarence built Parkhill as his home hidden in acres of secluded parkland. The hotel offers either a trip on old London Trolley drawn by a pair of Hackneys

through the New Forest with lunch in a pub and a country house tea in front of the log fires. In Spring a champagne hamper or Bar-b-que lunch will be provided; or a Times Gourmet Dinner with wine from our cellar, chosen by our wine waiter, coffee and liqueurs (excluding "offer" dinner). All guests staying at Parkhill through *The Times* promotion will have their name and addresses entered in our Special Draw, to win a fine vintage wine dating back the year of the winner's birth, accompanied by an original historical issue of *The Times* from the exact day.

Tynney Hall Hotel, Rotherwick, Nr Hook, RG27 9AJ. (0256 764881).
Usual rate: £14. Offer rate:
£5.50. Average dinner: £35.
Not available Christmas and New Year. Quote JT offer when booking.
A grade II listed building set in 60 acres of stunning gardens and parkland. Tynney Hall offers upgraded accommodation and afternoon tea (one day only).

HERTS

Sopwell House Hotel and Country Club, Cottonmill Lane, Sopwell, St Albans. (0727 864477).
Usual rate: £98.50. Offer rate:
£73.98. Average dinner:
£18.50. Not available Christmas. Weekend bookings preferred.

This Georgian manor, once the home of the Mountbattens is set in 12 acres of countryside with a health and fitness spa. The hotel offers a health and fitness break with two treatments per person, including a body massage or facial and "Wellness Programme", either nutritional analysis and dietary control or stress monitoring.

Stocks Hotel and Country Club, Stocks Road, Aldbury, Nr Tring, HP23 5RX. (044285 341).
Usual rate: £100. Offer rate:
£75. Average dinner: £18.50.
Not available 25, 26 December.

This club has riding and livery stables, four all weather tennis courts, a gymnasium and Jacuzzi, within the grounds of this country home dating back to 1716. The hotel offers either two and a half hour riding lessons or two hours riding per person from our stables; for the non rider a drive in our pony and trap. Riding to be arranged at time of reservation according to availability.

ISLE OF WIGHT

Clarendon Hotel and Wight Mouse Inn, Chale, PO38 2HA. (0983 730431).
Usual rate: £65.80. Offer rate:
£49.35. Average dinner: £12.
Not available Christmas and New Year.

This 17th century coaching inn overlooks Chale Bay. Tennyson Down and The Needles. The hotel offers £40 off ferry fare (normally £50) plus a bottle of wine to the value of £10. Ferry should be booked by the hotel when guests make a booking. A voucher will then be sent.

KENT

Budds House, Budds Lane, Wittersham, Isle of Oxney, TN2 7EL. (0797-270 204).
Usual rate: £50. Offer rate £60.
Average dinner: £25. Not available Christmas. Offer is available to other activity programmes, for example Isle of Oxney shoot.

This English country house hotel, all rooms have views into the gardens and countryside offers on selected weekends a combination of a luxurious break with expert and individual counselling programmes for couples; £50 is redeemable against the fees for these programmes.

The Harrow Inn, Warren Street, Nr Lenham, Maidstone, ME17 2ED. (0622 858727).
Usual rate: £58. Offer rate:
£43.50. Average dinner: £12.
Not available 25 or 26 December.

Once a resting place for travellers making a pilgrimage to Canterbury this hotel stands high in the North Kent Downs and a day trip for two people to Nausicca. The Marine Life Centre in Boulogne (subject to weather conditions permitting) crossing).

Swan Hotel, The Pinnacles, Royal Tunbridge Wells, TN2 5TD. (0892 541450).
Usual rate: £88. Offer rate:
£66. Average dinner: £18.50.
For a four to five day stay dinner must be taken on two evenings.

An 17th century town house located in the centre of Royal Tunbridge Wells. The hotel offers a bottle of Moet and Chandon champagne on arrival in your room and house wine with meal, and a trip around "A day at the Wells", a Georgian experience in Tunbridge Wells.

LONDON

The Beaumont, 33 Beaumont Gardens, SW3 1PP. (071-584 5252).
Usual rate: £195. Offer rate:
£146.25. Rate includes all drinks from 24 hour bar and snacks.

Richmond Gate Hotel and Restaurant, Richmond Hill, Richmond, TW10 6KP. (081 940 0061).
Usual rate: £105. Offer rate:
£78.75. Average dinner:
£17.50. Not available 31



Historic Borthwick Castle

Set in the Thames Valley in 30 acres of wooded grounds close to Oxford and Windsor. The hotel offers champagne, fruits and chocolates in your room on arrival.

SURREY

Langshott Manor, Langshott, Horley, RH9 9LN. (0293 786680).
Usual rate: £114. Offer rate:
£85.50. Available 24 to 29 December inclusive.

A restored Elizabethan manor house just a few minutes from Gatwick Airport. The hotel offers free car parking for up to 2 weeks and courtesy car to Gatwick airport (this service worth in excess of £50 based on current airport parking rates).

Pennington Park Hotel and Country Club, London Road, Bagshot, GU19 5ET. (0276 71774).
Usual rate: £146. Offer rate:
£109.50. Available 31 December.

A mansion house dating back to the mid 19th century, the hotel offers either one hour tuition in either horse riding or clay pigeon shooting for 2 persons plus one hour tuition in tennis for 2 persons.

Richmond Gate Hotel and Restaurant, Richmond Hill, Richmond, TW10 6KP. (081 940 0061).
Usual rate: £105. Offer rate:
£78.75. Average dinner:
£17.50. Not available 31

IRELAND

Delphi Lodge, Leenane, Co Galway. (010-35395 4221). Usual rate: £60. Offer rate:
£45. Average dinner: £22. Not available Christmas and New Year.

An Irish sporting lodge in the Connemara valley by the lake. The hotel offers either free salmon fishing for two people for a day on exclusive fly water at Delphi (February 1 to 30 April); or a free original watercolour painting of the Delphi Valley.

Craigdarroch Hotel and Country Club, Braemar Road, Ballater, Royal Deeside, AB35 5XA. (0397 55858). Usual rate: £125. Offer rate:
£93.75. Average dinner: £16.

This hotel converted from five Edwardian town houses, is located in a cobbled street near the city centre and offers up to a half day chauffeur driven limousine around Edinburgh, with a visit to the Scotch Whisky heritage centre beside Edinburgh Castle.

Chauffeur hire subject to availability.

Craigdarroch Hotel and Country Club, Braemar Road, Ballater, Royal Deeside, AB35 5XA. (0397 55858). Usual rate: £125. Offer rate:
£93.75. Average dinner: £16.

This hotel converted from five Edwardian town houses, is located in a cobbled street near the city centre and offers up to a half day chauffeur driven limousine around Edinburgh, with a visit to the Scotch Whisky heritage centre beside Edinburgh Castle.

Chauffeur hire subject to availability.

Manor Park Hotel, Skelmorlie, Ayrshire, PA17 5HE. (0775 520832). Usual rate: £90. Offer rate:
£67.50. Average dinner:
£19.50.

This hotel, built in 1840, with an oak staircase, portals and log fires offers a six course dinner for two plus a bottle of Portuguese wine on one other evening, apart from the chosen evening when guests must dine.

All bookings must quote reference JTJ.

Norton House, Ingliston, Edinburgh, EH28 5LX. (031-333 1275). Usual rate: £110. Offer rate:
£82.50. Average dinner:
£19.95. Not available 20 February.

A Victorian mansion set in 55 acres, combining modern comforts with touch of old world charm and elegance, and offering either a full days dry skiing, theatre tickets, a round of golf (subject to availability), plus upgrade to executive bedroom with a bottle of wine.

Parklands, St Leonard's Bank, Perth, PH2 8EB. (0738 22451). Usual rate: £100. Offer rate:
£75. Average dinner: £22.50.

Not available 24 to 26 or 31 December. Please quote JT1 when booking.

This hotel overlooks the Tay Valley and offers free membership to the Kenmore Club, champagne on your return with a surprise gift to take home.

Fairley House Hotel, Aberfeldy, Perthshire, PH15 2JE. (0878 820332). Usual rate: £90. Offer rate:
£67.50. Average dinner: £15.

Not available 24 to 26 or 31 December. Please quote JT1 when booking.

This hotel offers either each person either horse riding, clay target, archery, fishing or nine holes golf on a championship course.

Tulianisk, Birr, Co Offaly. (010-353509 20572). Usual rate: £860. Offer rate:
£545. Average dinner:
£22. Not available Christmas, New Year and Easter.

Valid until March 31st. The hotel offers each person either horse riding, clay target, archery, fishing or nine holes golf on a championship course.

Tulianisk, Birr, Co Offaly. (010-353509 20572). Usual rate: £140. Offer rate:
£105. Average dinner:
£27.50. Not available 24 to 26 December or 30 December to 2 January inclusive.

This house was built in 1912, retains many original features with views of the nearby Ochil Hills. The hotel offers a special 7 times gourmet menu has been created by chef/proprietor Antony Mifsud, exclusively for privilege card holders; a chance to learn to handle and fly birds of prey in association with The British School of Falconry at Braco Castle, you will be presented with a voucher (value £50) which can be used against the cost £100 per couple; enjoy a round of golf at a local course, then return for afternoon tea; or reserve dinner for a third night and receive a bedmor.

The Gean House Restaurant and Country House Hotel, Gean Park, Alloa, Near Stirling, FK10 2HS. (0299 219275). Usual rate: £140. Offer rate:
£105. Average dinner:
£27.50. Not available 24 to 26 December or 30 December to 2 January inclusive.

This house was built in 1912, retains many original features with views of the nearby Ochil Hills. The hotel offers a special 7 times gourmet menu has been created by chef/proprietor Antony Mifsud, exclusively for privilege card holders; a chance to learn to handle and fly birds of prey in association with The British School of Falconry at Braco Castle, you will be presented with a voucher (value £50) which can be used against the cost £100 per couple; enjoy a round of golf at a local course, then return for afternoon tea; or reserve dinner for a third night and receive a bedmor.

Thainstone House Hotel and Country Club, Thainstone, Inverurie, Aberdeen, AB51 9NT. (0467 21643). Usual rate: £98. Offer rate:
£73.50. Average dinner:

Elegant manor: Ynyshir Hall, near Machynlleth

Usual rate: £118.50. Offer rate: £88.88. Average dinner: £15. Quote The Times Johansens offer.

This hotel offers a trip to Royal Deeside visiting Balmoral Castle and Lomondas Distillery and a bottle of house wine and home made sweets; plus welcome decanter of sherry and shortbread.

Gleddoch House Hotel, Langbank, Renfrewshire, PA14 6YE. (0475 54711). Usual rate: £130. Offer rate:
£97.50. Average dinner: £25.50.

Not available 30.31 October; 20, 21 November; 2 December; 24 December-2 January inclusive.

This hotel is set in its own 25 acre estate with views over the Clyde towards the hills. The hotel offers a golf clinic on Saturday morning followed by a round of golf and on Sunday morning a scenic helicopter trip over the Clyde and the Trossachs.

Tormankin Hotel, Glendevon, By Dollar, Perthshire, FK14 7JY. (0299-72595).

This hotel offers style and comfort amid beautiful

Anglesay countryside with

views over Snowdonia offers a choice of £50 worth of wine of

your choice during your stay or clay pigeon shooting lesson for two.

Tormankin Hotel, Glendevon, By Dollar, Perthshire, FK14 7JY. (0299-72595).

This hotel offers style and comfort amid beautiful

Anglesay countryside with

views over Snowdonia offers a choice of £50 worth of wine of

your choice during your stay or clay pigeon shooting lesson for two.

Hotel Maes-Y-Neuadd, Talsarnau, Gwynedd, LL47 6YA. (0766 780200). Usual rate: £103. Offer rate:
£77.25. Average dinner: £26.

Not available Christmas, New Year or Easter.

This old inn, sympathetically restored to provide guests with every comfort. offers

Times readers either eighteen holes of golf, art tuition or clay

pigeon shooting at Scotland's most prestigious club. The hotel offers either dry

slope skiing for two including instruction; a two day art

course for one person (2nd person charged £50); or a

gourmet cooking course for

two (minimum 3 night stay).

To stay at any of these hotels at a 25% discount, collect seven Privilege Break tokens, starting on page 16 today

Must be a minimum of six person group.

The Lake Country House, Llangammarch Wells, Powys, LD4 4BS. (0591 202). Usual rate: £95. Offer rate:
£71.25. Average dinner:
£24.50. Not available Christmas and Easter.

Winner of the 1991

Johansens Restaurant of the Year award, the hotel has 50 acres of its own grounds and offers either two days fly fishing; or two days golf plus a bottle of champagne.

The Lion Hotel and Restaurant, Berriew, Nr Welshpool. Montgomeryshire, SY21 8PQ. (0686 640452). Usual rate: £70. Offer rate:
£52.50. Average dinner: £18. Not available 22 December to 2 January. Booking to made with Mrs J Thomas only.

The Lion Hotel, a 17th century inn on the Shropshire borders in one of Wales' prettiest villages offers either a

third night's accommodation free provided all meals are taken at the hotel during your stay.

The Old Rectory, Llanfairfechan, Conwy, Nr Llandudno, Gwynedd, LL26 5LF. (0492 580611).

Usual rate: £89. Offer rate:
£66.75. Average dinner: £25.

BBC1

- 7.25 News and weather (7775949) 7.35 Spider (r) (a) (4069036) 7.40 Animal World. How the wildlife of Indonesia is threatened by the felling of rainforests (s) (4040901) 7.50 Little Bill (r) (3159388) 8.15 Chucklevision Comedy with Paul and Barry Chuckle (s) (7033369) 8.35 Buckley O'Hare (r) (9831475) 9.00 Going Live! Young people's entertainment presented by Philip Schofield and Sarah Greene. This week's guests include EastEnders Nicola Stapleton (ex-853514) and Steve Punt. The show is a tribute to alternative 12.25 Football Focus: Bob Wilson and Gary Lineker discuss this week's home countries' World Cup results: 1.00 News; 2.00 Snooker: fourth round action in the Rothman's grand prix; 2.00 Golf: action at St Andrews from the final group matches of the Alfred Dunhill Cup to decide tomorrow's semi-finalists; 3.30 Rugby Union: highlights of the first half and live coverage of the second in the game at Wembley Stadium between England and Canada; 4.35 Final Score (1213372) 5.05 News and weather (5323123) 5.15 Regional News and weather (3386920). Wales (to 5.50). Wales on Saturday 5.20 Dad's Army Captain Mainwaring and the men of Walmington-on-Sea Home Guard become waterbombs when they acquire a platoon boat. Starring Arthur Lowe, John Le Mesurier and Clive Dunn (r). (Ceefax) (s) (7092431) 5.50 Big Break Quiz and snooker game show hosted by Jim Davidson. This week's guest professionals are top women's player Alison Proctor, tennis star and former world champion Dennis Taylor. (Ceefax) (s) (7092432) 6.20 Baby Doctor Public Enemy Number 1. In the last programme of the series Tony Blackburn, Shane Richie, Dennis Taylor and Carol Thatcher face the embarrassing revelations and a member of the public swaps places with one of the Chippendales. (Ceefax) (s) (749340) 7.00 Bruce Forsyth's Generation Game. Family couples compete for conveyor-belt prizes. (Ceefax) (s) (8543)



Hospital visit: Michael Jayston, Stephane Turner (8.00pm)

- 8.00 Casualty. The department's karaoke evening features some surprise performers with well-known faces including Michael Jayston, Helen Lederer, Peter Gilmore and Stephane Turner. On a more serious note, the staff have to deal with a businessman who has suffered horrific burns and an Asian youth with knife wounds across his face. (Ceefax) (s) (609104) 8.50 News with Marilyn Lewis. (Ceefax) Sport and weather (225494) 9.10 Porridge. Fleisch has paid his health at risk to help his comatose, Lannie, who has been involved in fistfights a week before his parole board meeting. Starring Ronnie Barker and Richard Beckinsale (r). (Ceefax) (s) (815307) 9.40 Match of the Day Special introduced by Desmond Lynam from Wembley Arena. Boxing: live coverage of Frank Bruno's come-back heavyweight bout against the South African Peter Coetzier. The commentator is Harry Carpenter. Football highlights from two of this afternoon's Premier League games and the goals from the rest of the matches. The commentators are John Motson and Barry Davies (s) (678524) 11.30 Snooker. Fourth round action from the Rothman's grand prix in Reading (s) (655340) 12.40am Golf. Highlights from the Arthur Dunhill Cup at St Andrews, introduced by Dougal Donnelly (8709147) 1.20 Weather (3535692)

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SKY ONE

- © Via the Astra and Marescopio satellites 6.00am Danger Bay (22620) 6.30 Electron Boy (32745) 7.00 Fun Factory (777778) 12.00 Barnaby Jones (11404) 1.00pm Film: September Gun (1983) starring Robert Preston and Perry Lopez (27251) 3.00 Coronation Street (1968) 4.00 The Return of Hecard (11543) 5.00 WWF Superstars of Wrestling (2678) 6.00 Knights and Widows (10388) 7.00 UK Top 40 (68949) 8.00 United Myths (1989) 9.00 Cops (11772) 10.00 Cupa (11158) 11.00 Saturday Night Live (5020) 11.10 Hi-Visions (57965) 12.00 Pageant from Shylock

SKY NEWS

- © Via the Astra and Marescopio satellites 6.00 News on the hour (1028) 6.30 Up There (1990) A pioneer agrees his wife's murder (43307) 10.00 Brenda Starr (1980) Come-back adventure starring Brooke Shields (72258)

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- © Via the Astra and Marescopio satellites 6.00 Coronation Street (1028) 6.30 Up There (1990) A pioneer agrees his wife's murder (43307) 10.00 Brenda Starr (1980) Come-back adventure starring Brooke Shields (72258)



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The effective way to fight sore throats.

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SOOTHES PAIN. FIGHTS BACTERIA.

BBC2

- 8.00 Open University (8664253) 8.05 Film: The Shoes of the Fisherman (1968) starring Anthony Quinn and Laurence Olivier. The sprawling and unlikely story of a Russian bishop who is exiled to the Vatican, reluctantly agrees to be elected Pope and promises that the church's wealth will be distributed among the world's starving millions. Directed by Michael Anderson (218257524) 11.35 Film: The Devil's Chalice. Guts. Highlights from ten years of the Film and Drama series (r) (2885161) 11.45 So You Want to Play (r) (Ceefax) (s) (454746) 12.15 Film: Fuzzy Pink Nightgown (1967, b/w) starring Jane Russell, Karen Wynn and Adolphe Menjou. Mischievous comic version of No Orchids for Miss Blandish about a film star who is kidnapped by the eve of her new film and believes it is a publicity stunt until her abductors demand a ransom. Directed by Norman Taurog (8422524) 1.40 Network East. The Asian magazine includes a profile of Zakes Powell, a former top model and one of Britain's leading film publicists (s) (9333272) 2.10 In Search of the Dead: Remembered Lives. Last in the series in which scientists search for evidence of the after death. Narrated by Philip Tubb (2671291) 2.50 Film: The Harder They Fall (1956, b/w). Gritty exposé of the fight game, starring Humphrey Bogart, in his last film, as a cynical sports promoter who joins forces with a hoodlum (Rothman) to pull off a big-end-closing boxer. Directed from a Budd Schulberg story by Mark Robson (61695765) 4.35 The Sky at Night. Patrick Moore presents new views of the planet Venus (1) (s) (7304307) 4.45 Film: Rothmans Grand Prix Snooker. Fourth round coverage from the Hexagon. Reading. The commentators are Ted Lowe, Jack Kamehira and Clive Everton (s) (10382982) 6.40 Late Again. Highlights from the week's The Late Show (s) (894524) 7.25 News with Chris Lowe. Sport and weather (358291)



Cast in the operetta tradition? Lloyd Webber (7.40pm)

7.40 Music on Two: Phantom of the Operetta.

- © CHOICE: A tram swaying along the streets of Vienna to the strains of a Strauss waltz heralds a light-hearted flick through the history of operetta by the journalist Mark Steyn. Alighting outside the Theater an der Wien, which saw the first performance of Die Fledermaus and other classics of tuneful escapism, he observes that the true successor to Strauss, Lehár and company is Andrew Lloyd Webber. That Lloyd Webber directs an amateur cast to spoil an enjoyable documentary film which also looks operetta's other capital, Budapest. The burly, unkempt Steyn may look incongruous in the noble Opera's society but his knowledge is毫不足惜 and his intervention veterans of operetta's greater days, plus excellent tunes (s) (675511) 8.40 Heute - Got News For You? A new series of the irreverent quiz show, first shown yesterday, hosted by Angus Deayton. With Ian Hislop, Paul Merton, Griff Rhys Jones and John Sessions (s) (616543) 9.10 Testimony Of Youth. Episode three of Elaine Morgan's fine dramatisation of Vera Brittain's autobiography, set in the shadow of the first world war and starring Chevi Campbell (r) (273524) 10.05 Film: The Brain Drain. Variable comedy show chaired by Jimmy Mulville in which a panel of comedians field questions from the studio audience (s) (119202) 10.30 Film: My Name Is Nobody (1974). The second in a short series of three spaghetti westerns. Henry Fonda plays an ace gunfighter, on his way to New Orleans, to board a boat to Europe and a life of anonymity, who is prevented from hanging up his guns by a young man called Nobody. Produced by Sergio Leone and directed, with tongue firmly in cheek, by Tonino Valerii (49567253). Ends at 12.30am

SKY SPORTS

- © Via the Astra and Marescopio satellites 12.00 Superman III (1983) Christopher Reeve conducts his alter ego (s) (9223556) 2.50 Star on Heavenly Dog (1980) Chevy Chase is remastered as a dog (7022267) 6.30 Holiday Destinations (1833) 2.20 Nightline (2000) 3.00 Film: The Hunt for Red October (1990) 4.30 Frontline News Europe (52768) 6.20 The Reporters (321047) 7.30 Fashion TV (15017) 8.30 Travel Descriptions (90291) 10.30 The Reporters (78475) 11.30 Fashion TV (1489) 12.00 Film: The Last Days of Mankind (472424) 1.30 The Devil's Own (28741) 2.30 Those Were the Days (36202) 3.30 Fashion TV (40147) 4.30 Financial Times Media Europe (89470) 5.30 The Sun (28741) 6.00 The Sun (28741) 7.00 UK Top 40 (68949) 8.00 United Myths (1989) 9.00 Cops (11772) 10.00 Cupa (11158) 11.00 Saturday Night Live (5020) 11.10 Hi-Visions (57965) 12.00 Pageant from Shylock

SKY MOVIES +

- © Via the Astra and Marescopio satellites 6.00 Coronation Street (1028) 6.30 Up There (1990) A pioneer agrees his wife's murder (43307) 10.00 Brenda Starr (1980) Come-back adventure starring Brooke Shields (72258) 12.00 Film: The Return of Hecard (11543) 5.00 WWF Superstars of Wrestling (2678) 6.00 Knights and Widows (10388) 7.00 UK Top 40 (68949) 8.00 United Myths (1989) 9.00 Cops (11772) 10.00 Cupa (11158) 11.00 Saturday Night Live (5020) 11.10 Hi-Visions (57965)

SKY MOVIES GOLD

- © Via the Astra satellite 6.00 Film: Step by Step (25494) 8.00 German Racy Magazine (53755) 10.00 Motorpost (56655) 11.00 Tristar (58520) 12.00 Story (58847) 2.00 Film: Ten (282185) 3.15 Cycling (2203562) 4.30 Film: (4775) 5.30 Film: Star Trooper Vice (1988) Adults 12.00 Film: The Kidnappers (1989) A kidnapper agrees his brother's death (53437) 3.00 House of Ulster (1990) Retelling of Edgar Allan Poe's classic (531510) 4.00 Film: The Devil's Own (28741) 5.00 Film: The Devil's Own (28741) 6.00 Film: The Devil's Own (28741) 7.00 Film: The Devil's Own (28741) 8.00 Film: The Devil's Own (28741) 9.00 Film: The Devil's Own (28741) 10.00 Film: The Devil's Own (28741) 11.00 Film: The Devil's Own (28741) 12.00 Film: The Devil's Own (28741) 1.30 Film: The Devil's Own (28741) 2.30 Film: The Devil's Own (28741) 3.30 Film: The Devil's Own (28741) 4.30 Film: The Devil's Own (28741) 5.30 Film: The Devil's Own (28741) 6.30 Film: The Devil's Own (28741) 7.30 Film: The Devil's Own (28741) 8.30 Film: 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SATURDAY OCTOBER 17 1992

SUNDAY TELEVISION AND RADIO

BBC1

- 7.35 Film: *Merrily We Live* (1938, b/w) starring Constance Bennett and Brian Aherne. Off-beat comedy about an eccentric and scruffy novelist who is mistaken for a tramp by a philanthropist and invited into her home. Directed by Norman Z. McLeod (1302534)
- 9.10 News and Weather (2209363) 9.15 Start Your Own Religion. Why saints prove that religion works (279718). Northern Ireland: Dell Sa Dhuin. 9.30 This is the Day from Obern (79855)
- 10.00 See How News of the Meningitis Trust Awareness Week and the work of Deaf Arts Forum (s) (95418)
- 10.30 Inside English Language skills (4391471). Wales: Careering Ahead 11.00-12.30 See You Sunday 10.45 Lingot Learning and pronouncing words (r) (4427302) 11.00 Careering Ahead. Training for the jobless in Northern Ireland (s) (9012) 11.30 Winning, Building a successful workforce (s) (8861)
- 12.00 Spain on a Plate. Castilian cuisine (r) (Ceefax) (s) (91760) 12.30 Countryfile. John Craven reports the hiking - Methodist minister, the Rev Brianne Evans (8717885). Wales: Down to Earth 12.55 Weather (s) (53631876)
- 1.00 News (2209363) 1.05 On the Record. An analysis of Britain's political and economic troubles (5058673)
- 2.00 EastEnders (r). (Ceefax) (s) (91647) 3.00 Eldorado (r). (Ceefax) (s) (918)
- 3.30 Film: *The Crimson Pirate* (1952) starring Bert Lancaster. Superior swashbuckler in the 18th-century Caribbean. Directed by Robert Siodmak (475147)
- 5.10 Blitzeback presented by Julian Pettifer (9153708)
- 5.50 The Clothes Show (242147)
- 6.15 The Survival Guide to Food. Is there a link between take-away meals and food poisoning? (Ceefax) (s) (338944)
- 6.25 News with Maura Stewart. Weather (44708)
- 6.40 Songs of Praise from Wimal Christian Centre. (Ceefax) (s) (507234)
- 7.15 Keeping Up Appearances. Hyacinth plans a nautical supper when she and Richard are left a cruiser. (Ceefax) (s) (335321)
- 7.45 The House Of Love. Polished period drama about two sisters, owners of a 1920s London fashion house. (Ceefax) (s) (650903)
- 8.40 Birds of a Feather. Sharon decides to sever the cat's Greek connection fails to have the desired effect when she acts on Doreen's idea to open a belgian bar. (Ceefax) (s) (571528)
- 9.10 News with Mervyn Lewis. (Oracle) Weather (503685)



Coming off the rails: Ben Holden and Alan Bates (9.25pm)

9.25 Screen One: Losing Track.

● CHOICE: Roger Ebert's first play for television is set in 1950 and features Alan Bates as Henry Stichell, an Indian civil servant who returns to England for the funeral of his wife. He is also reunited with Clive (Ben Holden), the young son he has not seen for five years. Stichell is selfish, boorish and obsessed with India to the exclusion of his family and much else. Clive is intelligent, sensitive and withdrawn. Given the difference in temperaments, their relationship is a strained one. The symbolic battleground is a model railway, constructed by dad to evoke his beloved India but unappreciated by the boy. Well-judged performances by Bates and the 12-year-old newcomer Holden; a carefully constructed script and Geraldine James shines as the housekeeper who tries to effect a reconciliation. (Ceefax) (s) (617524)

10.40 Everyone's Ministry of Fear:

● CHOICE: Beth Holgate's film reports from the South African township of Bobapong on the aftermath to the June massacre by an Inkatha war party. The youth of Bobapong want revenge for the 42 deaths and have an ally in a local minister, the Rev Ernest Solusi. He is an ANC veteran of 65, but the years have not mellowed him. He has good cause to feel bitter. Last year Inkatha gunmen broke into his house and murdered his wife, daughter and grandson. While Mr Solusi preaches Old Testament revenge, another minister, the appropriately named Peter Loving, urges New Testament reconciliation. (Ceefax) (761019)

11.20 Off the Back of a Lorry. The first of six programmes in which Mike Scott tours Europe to see whether the single market is proving good for British business (703963) 11.30 Weather (543953)

BBC2

- 7.30 Children's BBC begins with *Felix the Cat* (5930418). 7.45 Playdays (r) (6724676) 8.10 Smugglers (r) (7016692) 8.35 Animus Album (r) (8) (1810383) 8.50 Orville and Cuddles (r) (6232789) 8.55 Bibba (r) (s) (1829031) 9.15 The Legend Of Prince Valiant (s) (1820238) 9.40 The Watter, the Bellair (1885455) 10.05 Thundercats (r) (7145857) 10.30 Uncle Jack and the Dark Skies of the Moon. Episode three (of six) (r) (Ceefax) (s) (6490079) 10.55 Blue Peter. Omnibus (1104225) 11.45 The O-Zone (s) (4025289)
- 12.00 Thunderbirds. Gerry Anderson's classic puppet adventure series starring Ray Thimay (r) (5582654)
- 12.50 The Invaders. Dark Outpost. Vintage science fiction adventures starring Ray Thimay (r) (5582654)
- 1.40 Goff and Snooker. Golf. live action from St Andrews of the final of the Alfred Dunhill Cup for teams. The commentators are Paul Alliss, Bruce Crichton, Alex Hay, Clive Clark and Mike Hugueson. Snooker: fourth round matches in the Rothmans grand prix from the Hexagon, Reading. Introduced by David Vines (s) (58475857)
- 5.00 Rugby Special. Chris Rees' introduction, highlights of yesterday's match at Wembley Stadium between England and Canada, and the Wallabies' opening game of their tour of Ireland, against Leinster (s) (1012). Welsh Rugby Special Wales
- 6.00 Snooker. Highlights of the afternoon's session at the Hexagon, Reading (s) (585454)
- 6.35 The Money Programme: Beyond the Free Market. Michael Robinson reports on how the United States, home of the free market ideology, is starting to learn from its interventionist competitors
- 7.15 The Living Planet. David Attenborough steps back into the past as the world's largest lizard, the Komodo dragon, goes hunting. (r) (Ceefax) (s) (61079)
- 8.10 Did You See...? presented by Jeremy Paxman. The guests: Mary Archer, Desmond Lyman and John Sessions, discuss *Splendid Hearts, Running Late and The Golden Girls* (s) (641012)
- 8.40 The Look: The Material World. The fashion series continues with profiles of three designers for whom cloth is king — Issey Miyake, Gianni Versace and Christian Lacroix (s) (747215)
- 9.30 Building Sight. Paola Antonelli admires Milan's Piccolo Teatro Studio, designed by Marco Zanuso (4738357)
- 9.40 A Word In Your Ear presented by Roy McGrath. This week Hugh Dennis is Nick, Nick Never Is Anna the Hun and Alan Cumming is Mozza (s) (572876)
- 10.10 Snooker. Action from the Rothmans grand prix in Reading (s) (228470)



Recollections of service days: actor Robbie Gee (10.40pm)

10.40 Black Poppies. The War and Peace season continues with a dramatisation of the experiences of black servicemen from the second world war to the present day (s) (526168)

11.40 Goff and Snooker. Ends from St Andrews and Reading (s, snooker only) (729741). Ends at 1.05am

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Gold: The Mad Fisher Story (2228165) 5.00 Bullseye (s) (6037250) 5.45 Cut the Music (5382265) 5.50-5.53 Concert, John (s) (6174225)

HIT WEST
All Granada except: 12.30-1.00 West of Brixton on the aftermath to the June massacre by an Inkatha war party. The youth of Bobapong want revenge for the 42 deaths and have an ally in a local minister, the Rev Ernest Solusi. He is an ANC veteran of 65, but the years have not mellowed him. He has good cause to feel bitter. Last year Inkatha gunmen broke into his house and murdered his wife, daughter and grandson. While Mr Solusi preaches Old Testament revenge, another minister, the appropriately named Peter Loving, urges New Testament reconciliation. (Ceefax) (761019)

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VARIATIONS

ANGLIA
All Granada except: 12.30-1.00 Gardening Time (5702963) 1.05 The Central March — Live: Leicester v Peterborough (22160496) 5.00 Baywatch (s) (6176025) 5.30 Sunstoppers (5031193) 5.30-5.33 The Young Rovers (532474)

BORDER
All Granada except: 12.30-1.00 Gardening Time (5702963) 2.05 Chequered Flag (50757) 2.30 Home! (5079) 2.35 Candid Camera Classics (987091) 2.45 The Angle Match. Leicester v Peterborough (22160499) 5.00 Sunstoppers (5031193) 5.30-5.33 The Young Rovers (532474)

SCOTTHISH
All Granada except: 10.45-11.00 Gardening Time (5702963) 1.05 The Central March — Live: Leicester v Peterborough (22160496) 5.00 Baywatch (s) (6176025) 5.30 Sunstoppers (5031193) 5.30-5.33 The Young Rovers (532474)

TVS
All Granada except: 12.30-1.00 TV News (5776520) 2.05 Chequered Flag (50757) 2.30 Film: *Twist Boy* (50976) 4.20 Animal Kingdom (5921) 5.00 Scotsport (5169) 6.05-6.10 Sports (5072953) 6.15-6.20 Sports (5072954) 6.25 Film: *The Man Who Knew Too Much* (4899457) 6.05 Baywatch (5783231) 5.00 Sunstoppers (5169) 6.05-6.15 Sports (5072953) 6.15-6.20 Sports (5072954) 6.25 Film: *Twist Boy* (50976) 6.30-6.40 Film: *Twist Boy* (50976) 6.45-6.55 Film: *Twist Boy* (50976) 6.55-6.65 Film: *Twist Boy* (50976) 6.65-6.75 Film: *Twist Boy* (50976) 6.75-6.85 Film: *Twist Boy* (50976) 6.85-6.95 Film: *Twist Boy* (50976) 6.95-7.05 Film: *Twist Boy* (50976) 7.05-7.15 Film: *Twist Boy* (50976) 7.15-7.25 Film: *Twist Boy* (50976) 7.25-7.35 Film: *Twist Boy* (50976) 7.35-7.45 Film: *Twist Boy* (50976) 7.45-7.55 Film: *Twist Boy* (50976) 7.55-7.65 Film: *Twist Boy* (50976) 7.65-7.75 Film: *Twist Boy* (50976) 7.75-7.85 Film: *Twist Boy* (50976) 7.85-7.95 Film: *Twist Boy* (50976) 7.95-8.05 Film: *Twist Boy* (50976) 8.05-8.15 Film: *Twist Boy* (50976) 8.15-8.25 Film: *Twist Boy* (50976) 8.25-8.35 Film: *Twist Boy* (50976) 8.35-8.45 Film: *Twist Boy* (50976) 8.45-8.55 Film: *Twist Boy* (50976) 8.55-8.65 Film: *Twist Boy* (50976) 8.65-8.75 Film: *Twist Boy* (50976) 8.75-8.85 Film: *Twist Boy* (50976) 8.85-8.95 Film: *Twist Boy* (50976) 8.95-9.05 Film: *Twist Boy* (50976) 9.05-9.15 Film: *Twist Boy* (50976) 9.15-9.25 Film: *Twist Boy* (50976) 9.25-9.35 Film: *Twist Boy* (50976) 9.35-9.45 Film: *Twist Boy* (50976) 9.45-9.55 Film: *Twist Boy* (50976) 9.55-9.65 Film: *Twist Boy* (50976) 9.65-9.75 Film: *Twist Boy* (50976) 9.75-9.85 Film: *Twist Boy* (50976) 9.85-9.95 Film: *Twist Boy* (50976) 9.95-10.05 Film: *Twist Boy* (50976) 10.05-10.15 Film: *Twist Boy* (50976) 10.15-10.25 Film: *Twist Boy* (50976) 10.25-10.35 Film: *Twist Boy* (50976) 10.35-10.45 Film: *Twist Boy* (50976) 10.45-10.55 Film: *Twist Boy* (50976) 10.55-10.65 Film: *Twist Boy* (50976) 10.65-10.75 Film: *Twist Boy* (50976) 10.75-10.85 Film: *Twist Boy* (50976) 10.85-10.95 Film: *Twist Boy* (50976) 10.95-11.05 Film: *Twist Boy* (50976) 11.05-11.15 Film: *Twist Boy* (50976) 11.15-11.25 Film: *Twist Boy* (50976) 11.25-11.35 Film: *Twist Boy* (50976) 11.35-11.45 Film: *Twist Boy* (50976) 11.45-11.55 Film: *Twist Boy* (50976) 11.55-11.65 Film: *Twist Boy* (50976) 11.65-11.75 Film: *Twist Boy* (50976) 11.75-11.85 Film: *Twist Boy* (50976) 11.85-11.95 Film: *Twist Boy* (50976) 11.95-12.05 Film: *Twist Boy* (50976) 12.05-12.15 Film: *Twist Boy* (50976) 12.15-12.25 Film: *Twist Boy* (50976) 12.25-12.35 Film: *Twist Boy* (50976) 12.35-12.45 Film: *Twist Boy* (50976) 12.45-12.55 Film: *Twist Boy* (50976) 12.55-12.65 Film: *Twist Boy* (50976) 12.65-12.75 Film: *Twist Boy* (50976) 12.75-12.85 Film: *Twist Boy* (50976) 12.85-12.95 Film: *Twist Boy* (50976) 12.95-13.05 Film: *Twist Boy* (50976) 13.05-13.15 Film: *Twist Boy* (50976) 13.15-13.25 Film: *Twist Boy* (50976) 13.25-13.35 Film: *Twist Boy* (50976) 13.35-13.45 Film: *Twist Boy* (50976) 13.45-13.55 Film: *Twist Boy* (50976) 13.55-13.65 Film: *Twist Boy* (50976) 13.65-13.75 Film: *Twist Boy* (50976) 13.75-13.85 Film: *Twist Boy* (50976) 13.85-13.95 Film: *Twist Boy* (50976) 13.95-14.05 Film: *Twist Boy* (50976) 14.05-14.15 Film: *Twist Boy* (50976) 14.15-14.25 Film: *Twist Boy* (50976) 14.25-14.35 Film: *Twist Boy* (50976) 14.35-14.45 Film: *Twist Boy* (50976) 14.45-14.55 Film: *Twist Boy* (50976) 14.55-14.65 Film: *Twist Boy* (50976) 14.65-14.75 Film: *Twist Boy* (50976) 14.75-14.85 Film: *Twist Boy* (50976) 14.85-14.95 Film: *Twist Boy* (50976) 14.95-15.05 Film: *Twist Boy* (50976) 15.05-15.15 Film: *Twist Boy* (50976) 15.15-15.25 Film: *Twist Boy* (50976) 15.25-15.35 Film: *Twist Boy* (50976) 15.35-15.45 Film: *Twist Boy* (50976) 15.45-15.55 Film: *Twist Boy* (50976) 15.55-15.65 Film: *Twist Boy* (50976) 15.65-15.75 Film: *Twist Boy* (50976) 15.75-15.85 Film: *Twist Boy* (50976) 15.85-15.95 Film: *Twist Boy* (50976) 15.95-16.05 Film: *Twist Boy* (50976) 16.05-16.15 Film: *Twist Boy* (50976) 16.15-16.25 Film: *Twist Boy* (50976) 16.25-16.35 Film: *Twist Boy* (50976) 16.35-16.45 Film: *Twist Boy* (50976) 16.45-16.55 Film: *Twist Boy* (50976) 16.55-16.65 Film: *Twist Boy* (50976) 16.65-16.75 Film: *Twist Boy* (50976) 16.75-16.85 Film: *Twist Boy* (50976) 16.85-16.95 Film: *Twist Boy* (50976) 16.95-17.05 Film: *Twist Boy* (50976) 17.05-17.15 Film: *Twist Boy* (50976) 17.15-17.25 Film: *Twist Boy* (50976) 17.25-17.35 Film: *Twist Boy* (50976) 17.35-17.45 Film: *Twist Boy* (50976) 17.45-17.55 Film: *Twist Boy* (50976) 17.55-17.65 Film: *Twist Boy* (50976) 17.65-17.75 Film: *Twist Boy* (50976) 17.75-17.85 Film: *Twist Boy* (50976) 17.85-17.95 Film: *Twist Boy* (50976) 17.95-18.05 Film: *Twist Boy* (50976) 18.05-18.15 Film: *Twist Boy* (50976) 18.15-18.25 Film: *Twist Boy* (50976) 18.25-18.35 Film: *Twist Boy* (50976) 18.35-18.45 Film: *Twist Boy* (50976) 18.45-18.5

More ups and downs than hem

Linda Evangelista is not a Caribbean resort, Lynne Truss discovers during her eye-opening look at the fashion game



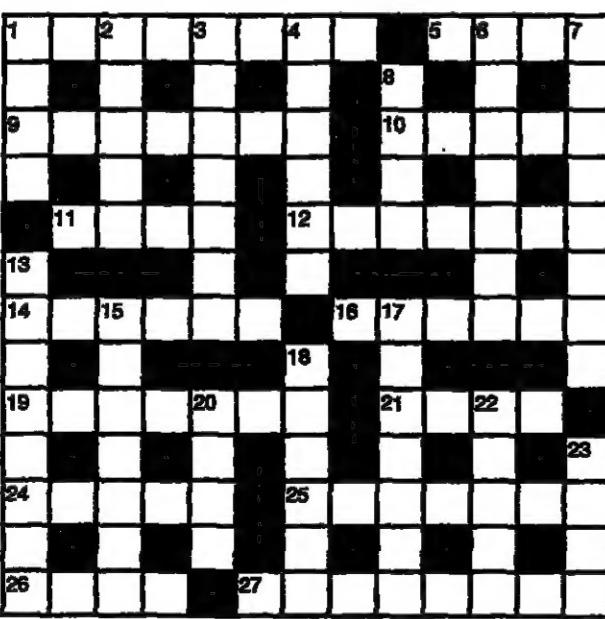
"Did you have a successful day, dear?" asked someone on *The House of Eliot* (BBC1), last Sunday. The choice of question was significant. Given that *The House of Eliot* (like the fashion business itself) is all about degrees of success, there is no point asking anything else. "Design any nice frocks today?" you might ask, but you wouldn't really be interested in the answer. No, the point is, are those lovely sisters currently up or down, as they forge through the year 1924? Well, watch them go up, watch them come down, basically. Just pity the viewer who forgot to stock up on graph paper at the start of the series; or who suffers *mal de mer* in the perpetual pitch and swell.

If the BBC were really smart it would market a *House of Eliot* board-game for Christmas, based on snakes and ladders. What's this? A six! They attract a new client who is a Lady in Waiting! Up they go, on the little ladder! But their finances are in the clutches of the evil Mister Sarvan, who has evidently been buying himself a knighthood with their well-earned dosh! Down, down, the long, fat snake! A commission to design costumes for an avant-garde ballet? Up to the loft on steps! But the ballet is a disastrous flop! Oh, snakey, snakey, they are yours.

Somebody in last week's episode pretended to see a family resemblance between Beatrice (Stella Gonet) and Evangelina (Louise Lombard), which made this viewer say "Ho hum" impatiently. Bea and Evie (as I fondly think of them) were self-evidently born not just to different parents but to very different dramatic purposes, both indispensable in the circumstances. Bea's strength is that she makes a fine recipient of good news — she swells visibly, her eyelashes rise to a point, and she lights up all over, saying: "Oh Jack, that's wonderful!" Meanwhile Evie's complementary forte ("Troubled") is likewise played for all it's worth. She casts down her eyes, bites her lip, and lets a quiver of misgiving flash across her face. No, no, it's good. Really.

I don't remember the first series being so banal: perhaps I was dazed by the couture. But whereas the current series of *Trainer* (BBC1, Wednesday) is a huge improvement on the first (more pace, more David McCallum), the second series of *The House of Eliot* seems to

CONCISE CROSSWORD No 2921



CROSS
1 Film chief (8)
5 Launder (4)
9 Planned (7)
10 Marching (5)
11 Decisive part (4)
12 Caraway spirit (7)
14 Supporting (2,4)
16 Necessary majority (6)
19 Iona saint (7)
21 Snoddy (4)
24 Spoddy (5)
25 Wink at (7)
26 Ceremonial (4)
27 Ship's cheap quarters (8)

DOWN
1 Thrust (4)
2 Alternative (5)
3 Unblended (7)
4 Capivate (6)
5 Trembling (7)
7 Game interval (4,4)
8 Boyfriend (4)
13 Wizard (8)
15 Plead for (7)
17 Derange (7)
18 Surgical knife (6)
20 Second Gospel (4)
22 Swedish currency (5)
23 In this place (4)

SOLUTIONS TO NO 2920
ACROSS: 1 St Andrew 7 Morse 8 In a pickle 9 Fin 10 Mail 11 Import 13 Cheque 14 Battle 19 Titan 20 Weep 21 War, 23 a blow 24 Ready 25 Records
DOWN: 1 Seismic 2 Available 3 Drip 4 Eskimo 5 Craft 6 Penny 7 Metalurgic 8 Gaudy 9 Fuelled 16 Empower 17 Savage 18 Sure 19 Treat 22 Halo

WINNING MOVE

By Raymond Keene, Chess Correspondent
This position is from the game Diaferia — Fourche, Chambery 1991. At first sight it would appear that black has got his pieces skewered and forked, and is consequently in trouble. Why is this not the case? Black to move.

Send your answer on a postcard with your name and address to: *The Times*, 1 Pennington Street, London E1 9XN. The first three correct answers drawn on Thursday next week will win a Batsford chess book. The answer and the winners will be printed in *The Times* on the following Saturday.

CROSSWORD ENTHUSIASTS: For mail order details of all Times Crossword Books and The Times Computer Crossword software for beginners or experts (runs on most PCs), telephone Akom Ltd on 081 852 4575 Mon-Fri after 4pm or weekends. Postage free until Christmas (applies UK only).

TV REVIEW

have put all its effort into the hiring of cars, a quirky decision that has not paid off, in my opinion. There are now so many period vehicles in *The House of Eliot* that our transport museums must be echoing caverns with cobwebs. Why must Evie get involved with a racing driver? Think of the expense of those reconstructed race meets. In the first series, the exterior shots (terrace, road) showed occasional vehicles, as a bit of a treat; but now the street is virtually in gridlock. No wonder Mrs Raby got knocked down and killed last Sunday. It was an accident waiting to happen.

It is quite a shock switching over from *The House of Eliot* on Sunday nights to BBC2's *The Look*, because although the subject is the same (fashion, money) the difference in mental concentration required is absolutely staggering. *The Look* is a tightly constructed series packed with demanding commentary and flashing with wit and image. No second-guessing the script here ("Jack, that's wonderful!") we now chorus weakly at home in the H of E). No, *The Look* bounces along so quickly with information that you are forever saying: "How many million dollars?" and missing the next bit. For someone who previously thought Versace rhymed with Face, and that Linda Evangelista was a resort in the Caribbean, *The Look* has been a real eye-opener.

The Eliot sisters could really learn something from this lot. Of their two featured collections so far, one was a raving success, while of course (for the sake of balance) the other was not. What is clear from *The Look* is that they should immediately get into licensing — putting the *House of Eliot* label on accessories, perfume, or car rugs and hubcaps if necessary. They are slow off the mark in this area. A couple of weeks ago, Calvin Klein told the story of how he came up with the name for his perfume *Eternity*, through buying an eternity ring for his wife. In *The House of Eliot* a week later, Jack gave Beatrice an eternity ring on her wedding anniversary, but unfortunately she lacked the instinct for the marketing main chance. Instead she just said (*all together, now*) "Jack, that's wonderful!" Which just goes to prove we can't all be Calvin Klein.

Actually, one of the best moments of *The Look* (so far) made this point exactly, in a brief sequence of shots in which famous designers identified themselves. "My name is Ralph Lauren", "My name is Giorgio Armani", "My name is Christian Lacroix". Wow. It was a weird sensation, like watching *Hamlet* for the first time as an adult and recognising all the quotes. How can any person, qua person, possibly be Giorgio Armani? This is category confusion, surely. To say "I went to school with Calvin Klein" is like saying you went to school with Christmas.

Anyhow, what has become achingly clear from *The Look* is that one ever says "Design any good frocks today?" in the real world of fashion, either. Success is everything; success is the only message that modern clothes are designed to convey; at the Paris shows, successful celebrities sit alongside successful journalists and watch successful models. Backstage afterwards, they all kiss the designer and say it was a great — er, success, partly because their vocabulary has atrophied to the one word. Giorgio Armani is so highly successful, by the way, that he confesses to no longer knowing how to get on a bus! I wonder if this news is supposed to make the rest of us feel better?

Fashion is a nightmare as well as a dream, of course, because it has to keep moving, and can't ever stop. On Tuesday's *Woman's Hour*, I heard it said that the latest fashion is plucking your eyebrows really thin, à la Seventies, at which I stopped the car and burst into tears. Will we also have to listen to Amen Corner? Well, if they want my eyebrows, I decided, they will just have to fight me for them. But as I blew my nose pathetically, I suddenly realised that such fashion decrees had no power over me, anyhow. The comforting thing about fashion is that, despite all its money, glitz and press coverage,

there remain millions of people who are supremely untouched by it. Say to them with audge, "Brown is the new black" and they will assume you are rambling to no purpose. Say, "You'd look better with no eyebrows" and they will knock you down.

The other week, in *The House of Eliot*, Evie had dinner with her racing-driver boyfriend, and we were allowed to eavesdrop a titbit of their conversation. Evie smiled, her fork poised in mid-air, as she listened intently. "1924," said James tenderly, "is going to be Bentley's year." She looked serenely happy at this dreary bulletin from *What Car* 1923, which perhaps goes to prove that love is blind. But perhaps the point was this: James is a trend-spotter, like the Eliots themselves. "So modern! So stylish!" they say when confronted with anything new. Get a Bentley! Go to difficult ballets! Adore the Impressionists! When Lord Alexander Montfort told Evie recently that the

Paris exhibition had been "modern" and "stylish", her eyeballs sprang into sympathetic flame like a gas cookability ad.

Jean Cocteau said that whereas art produces ugly things that sometimes grow beautiful over time, fashion produces beautiful things that invariably become ugly. He might have added, I think, that while the process with art can be quite slow, the process with fashion is virtually instantaneous. In my experience, garments can sometimes lose their pelfa of newness in the time it takes to get home on the bus (Armani will have to trust me on that). What a very bold stroke, then, for a fashion designer to call his perfume *Eternity*, when the war dead talk about people who died 50 or even 75 years ago, yet their grief is so fresh and vivid it touches all your own feelings of loss. Next week's programme, *Rhythmede*, is about Air Force men and women with no known grave, and is almost unbearably moving.

L.T.



High on haute couture: *The House of Eliot* and *The Look* prove that fashion types never say, "Design any good frocks today?"

TV PREVIEW

• **Animal Squad Undercover** (Monday, Channel 4, 9pm)
Attacks on camera crews often make for extraordinary television. "It was at this point," says Roger Cook (or the *Watchdog* reporter), "that things started to get out of hand." Bloody men in shell suits suddenly approach the camera in a threatening manner, one of them ominously carrying a baseball bat. The picture freezes, for our convenience. "Now, watch this man," we are told; and on cue the man, too close to the camera to be in focus, raises a blurred fist, and the picture goes all sideways, amid grunts.

Monday's Animal Squad Undercover focuses on two RSPCA missions tailing lorry-loads of livestock across the Confinement, and ends with a nasty scuffle at an abattoir, where an agitated Italian slaughterer actually runs amok with a stun gun. The series is certainly a corrective (if any were needed) to the idea that the RSPCA spends its time winding bandages around doggies' paws.

• **Pole to Pole** (Wednesday, BBC1, 9.30pm)
The story goes that in Russia there is a great railway which runs in an absolutely straight line from one remote city to another, with just two little detours, like humps, interrupting the perfect line. "Why the humps?" people asked. Because when the Tsar drew the route on a map he used a ruler ("From here — to here") and the humps were where his fingertips overlapped the edge.

The route for Michael Palin's new travel series looks rather similar. The idea is that he travels from North Pole to South Pole along a straight line of longitude (30° east) — but one is bound to notice the old "Tsar's fingertips" effect from time to time. What a good idea for a travel series, though, and how cunning of him to choose a degree of longitude that takes in so much land mass (Scandinavia, Europe, Egypt, and the length of Africa). Imagine the disaster if he had plumped for 30° west, where the distant view of the Azores would be the only relief to a whole top-to-bottom eight weeks of lonely sea.

• Splendid Hearts

(Friday, BBC2, 9.30pm)
Part of the War and Peace season, this Friday-night series on war memorials is deeply poignant without being in the least exploitative. It is marvellous, humane television. The relatives of the war-dead talk about people who died 50 or even 75 years ago, yet their grief is so fresh and vivid it touches all your own feelings of loss. Next week's programme, *Rhythmede*, is about Air Force men and women with no known grave, and is almost unbearably moving.

Dancing king in a neon vest

Caitlin Moran
gives a morning-after report on a steamy Friday all-nighter at a students' club



WHEN the sun has left our part of the world, and gone to be nice to the small children on the other side of the earth, it is then Prowling Time: the streets are our own and we name them so.

Bernie, the self-trained coolest guy in the world, and I shimmer through the door of the Club Voueur, heading barwards and scattering greetings: floating around the tables of hunched-over students whose faces we know, eating their crisps and stealing the words, and sitting on their tables and laughing. We drink. We pose a bit. We drink. We pose a bit. We drink.

There's a person who works behind the bar who says he can always tell how intelligent people are by the way they dance and the way they smoke. He also says he has seen his name written in the sky by one of God's friends, and that he can smell with his feet... but he doesn't object to mixing lager and Bailey's cocktails, so we sweetly disbelieve him, from a distance.

Huddled up underneath a table, and tripping up the boorish and the inebriated with her family-sized Doc Martens, is Claire, around whom most of the graffiti in the toilet revolves.

We decimate a packet of Skit Cut and slander most of the universe together, and later, when we're gasp-headed enough to dance, we stagger on to the dance floor, where Bernie reigns supreme. He will still be shimmering and sliding when I am tying at the side of the dance floor with an intravenous drip of cider dangling from my arm. He choreographs all the cool things he ever heard on television or in film in a neat little clutch on his chest, and dances liquid



Night-clubbing '92: it's crowded, sweaty, deafening and boozy but, for the young, it's cool

semaphore circles around the two Friday night girls who are hoe-downing around a cluster of empty glasses. His T-shirt glows dimly neon in the ultraviolet; it gives the girdles something to aim for as the spodit darkness grows thicker.

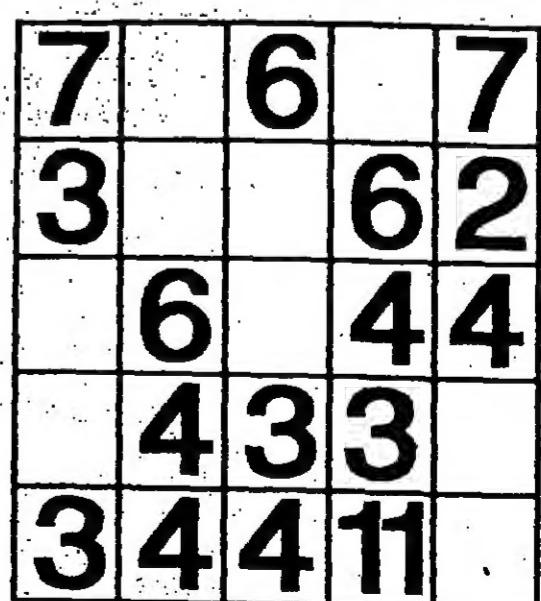
People are talking louder, now, knitting their sentences into the air with their hands; they're clinging to the walls because every time the speakers breathe in between songs the vacuum makes them nearly keel over. A popular symphony for screwed-up children comes over the PA: no one over the age of 25 could ever slide into the words or the screaming, but Claire swears she can hear her name being called out over and again by me and Bernie, with his chivalry and four pints of lager inside him: he believes the band wrote it for him, like he believes in the ground that he walks on and the things that he says.

Someone passes out as they dance. He is skinny and wears a T-shirt too small for him. His hair is stringy with sweat and his thumbs twitch like he's trying to hitch some place else. A transvestite is locked in

GUILTY SECRET: Mary Whitehouse

"I love watching the nature programmes, such as the David Attenborough series *The Living Planet*. They show you places and situations you would never normally see. I also enjoy sport. Tennis is number one for me but I'm very happy to watch snooker and even the football. I used to be a football fan, you know."

Can you solve this puzzle as fast as Einstein?



Each line of five numbers must total 25. Place a number into each empty square in order to complete the grid. If you can complete this without using a calculator fill in the coupon below.

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TELEGRAM

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